VALIANT
BLOOD SHOT U.S.A.
JEFF LEMIRE
DOUG BRAITHWAITE
BRIAN REBER
"This series is just too much fun, we love it so damn much."
- Nerdist

BLOODSHOT U.S.A.

JEFF LEMIRE | DOUG BRAITHWAITE | BRIAN REBER

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Letterer: Dave Lanphear
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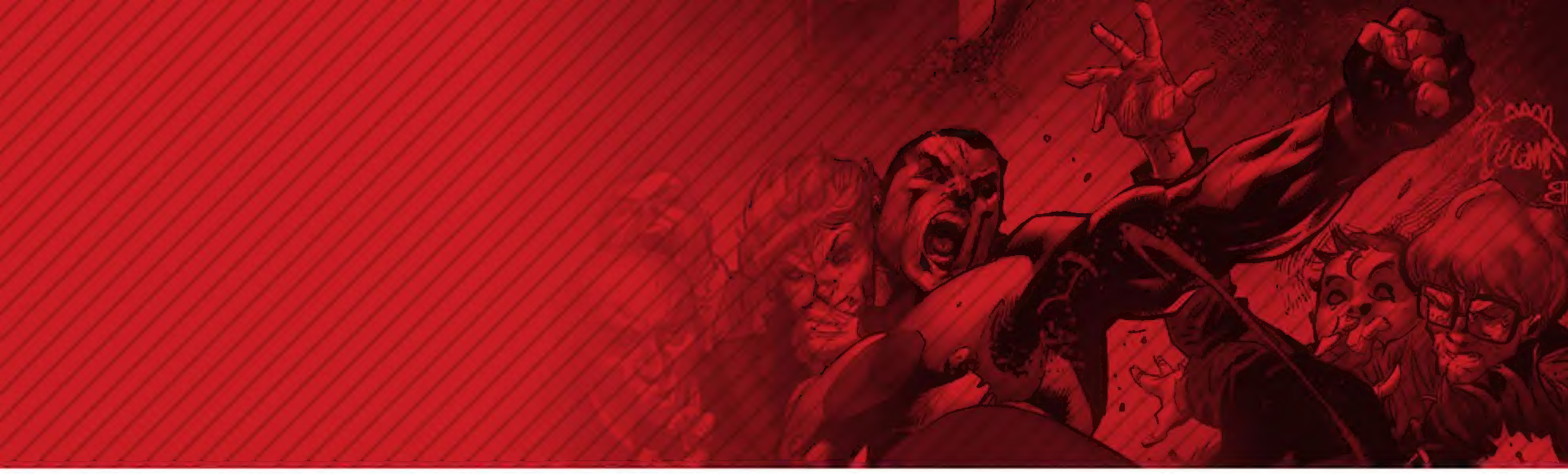

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VALIANT

#1

BLOOD SHOT U.S.A.

JEFF LEMIRE | DOUG BRAITHWAITE | BRIAN REBER

BLOODSHOT U.S.A.

BLOODSHOT WAS THE PERFECT LIVING WEAPON, a nearly indestructible killing machine brainwashed and sent on hundreds of brutal black-ops missions by Project Rising Spirit. His life was one of unending violence until he broke free of his corporate masters.

On a mission for MI-6 to stop a terrible threat known as the Immortal Enemy, he met Kay McHenry -- a powerful mystic known as a Geomancer. Kay was struck down by the Immortal Enemy, but in her final moments, she stripped the nanites from Bloodshot's body.

Powerless, Bloodshot assumed a new identity. Calling himself Ray Garrison, he met a young woman named Magic and they fell in love. But their tranquility was shattered when P.R.S. recaptured Bloodshot and imprisoned him on a desert island, where he was hunted — and executed — everyday by a mysterious creature known only as Deathmate.

Bloodshot discovered the former Geomancer, Kay McHenry, had been turned into Deathmate by P.R.S. With this knowledge, he teamed up with The Bloodshot Squad — outdated Bloodshots from wars gone by — to defeat Deathmate and escape in a makeshift raft...

BLOODSHOT

A nanite-infused soldier, Bloodshot was once used -- against his will -- as a weapon by Project Rising Spirit. Now freed from their control, he is searching for the love of his life -- Magic -- who was kidnapped by P.R.S...

GEOMANCER

Kay McHenry was once the Geomancer -- an enigmatic mystic who protected the Earth. But after her demise, she's seemingly become something much more lethal and dangerous...Deathmate.

PROJECT RISING SPIRIT

The paramilitary organization that created Bloodshot and his predecessors, as well as Deathmate. It is run by CEO Morris Kozol.

BLOODSHOT SQUAD

A team of Bloodshots from wars gone by consisting of Tank Man, Cold Man, Viet Man, Quiet Man, and Bloodhound.

AGENT DIANE FESTIVAL

Special agent Diane Festival has been tracking Ray Garrison for months. She is currently being held prisoner -- along with Bloodshot's true love, Magic -- by Project Rising Spirit .

NINJAK

Spy and mercenary for hire, Colin King is a wealthy son of privilege who works as an agent of MI-6 and Unity.

UNITY

A global defense team of enhanced agents, dedicated to protecting humanity from the world's most unstoppable dangers.

LIVEWIRE

Leader of Unity, Amanda McKee has the ability to control computers and microcircuitry with her mind.

COL. JAMIE CAPSHAW

Commanding officer of G.A.T.E. -- the Global Agency for Threat Excision. Works with MI-6 to deploy Unity when crisis occurs.

PROJECT RISING SPIRIT BUNKER SOMEWHERE IN NEW MEXICO.
ONE YEAR AGO.
GENTLEMEN, AS YOU ALL KNOW--
--WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING RECENT EVENTS IN COLORADO VERY CLOSELY.
A MONTH AGO, AN ENTITY KNOWN AS "THE IMMORTAL ENEMY" ENGAGED IN COMBAT WITH A NUMBER OF THE SUPER HUMAN COMMUNITY, G.A.T.E. AND MI-6.
"AMONG THE COMBATANTS WAS OUR OWN ROGUE OPERATIVE, THE MOST RECENT GENERATION OF BLOODSHOT.
"IN THE WAKE OF THE IMMORTAL ENEMY'S DEFEAT, THE SUPER-POWERED GEOMANCER NAMED KAY MCHENRY DIED. BUT IN HER LAST ACT, SHE USED HER ABILITIES TO SOMEHOW EXPEL THE NANITES FROM BLOODSHOT'S BODY.
"BLOODSHOT WENT EVEN MORE ROGUE AFTER THAT. POWERLESS, HE SPIRALED INTO SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR. WE WERE MONITORING HIM THE WHOLE TIME, AND WERE JUST ABOUT TO BRING HIM IN WHEN THINGS GOT REALLY INTERESTING..."

"SEEMS THE AIRBORNE NANITES THAT THE GEOMANCER EXPELLED FROM BLOODSHOT WERE STILL ACTIVE AND LATCHED ONTO SUSCEPTIBLE VICTIMS--

"--'INFECTING' THEM AND TURNING THEM INTO MINDLESS 'BLOODSHOT DRONES.'

"TO OUR SURPRISE, BLOODSHOT WAS ABLE TO TRACK AND REABSORB THE NANITES FROM THE INFECTED KILLERS."

THE WHOLE THING GAVE US AN IDEA. AN IDEA, I THINK, WHICH WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR FOR THE BETTER HALF OF A DECADE, GENTLEMEN...

...I THINK WE CAN REPLICATE WHAT HAPPENED IN COLORADO AND MAKE OUR OWN ***BLOODSHOT VIRUS.***

AND EXACTLY ***HOW*** WOULD THIS-- THIS ***NANITE VIRUS*** BE A BENEFIT TO US HERE AT PROJECT RISING SPIRIT, AGENT KOZOL?

WE WOULD INFECT A LARGE POPULATION MASS. TURN THEM INTO THESE BLOODSHOT KILLERS, ALL THE WHILE WE WOULD SECRETLY CONTROL THE NANITES AND BE ABLE TO TURN THEM ON AND OFF AT WILL.

WE'D LET AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF PANIC SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY FIRST, THOUGH...

THEN, WHEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY FAILS TO STOP THE SPREAD AND THE KILLERS--

--PROJECT RISING SPIRIT WOULD SWOOP IN AND "SAVE THE DAY" WITH A SUFFICIENT COVER STORY.

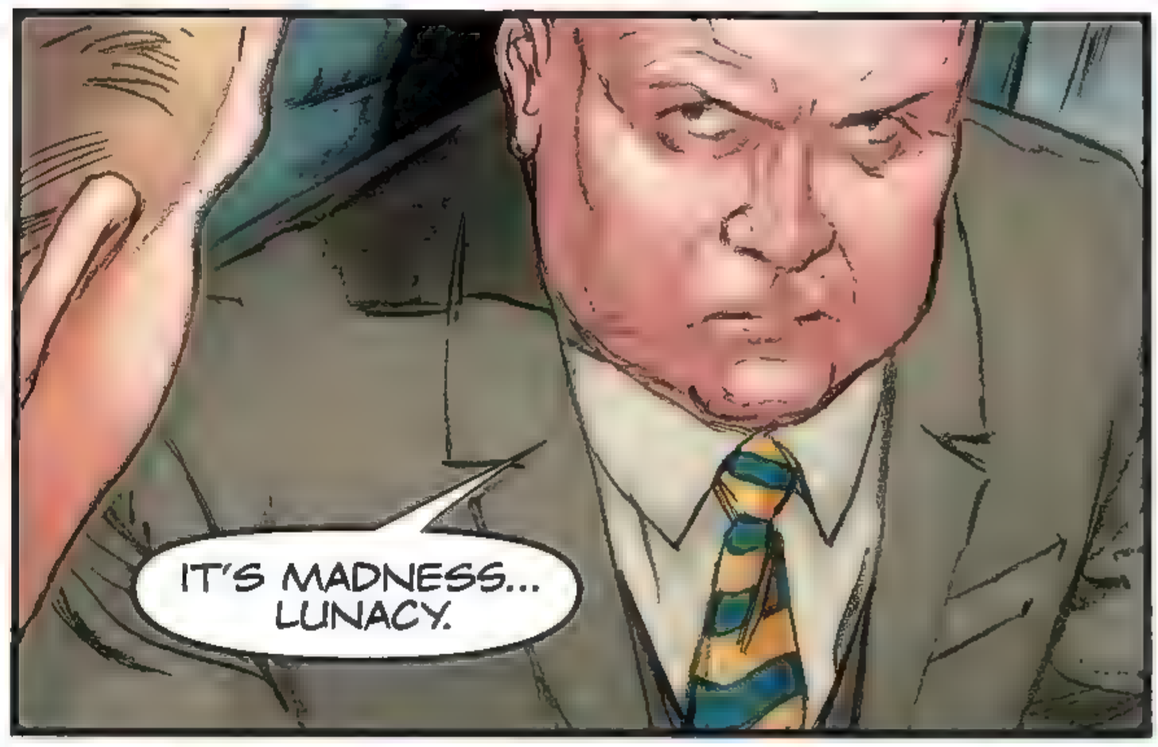
IN THE WAKE OF THIS HORRIBLE TRAGEDY--

--PROJECT RISING SPIRIT WOULD BECOME THE MOST TRUSTED AND VALUABLE MILITARY ASSET AMERICA-- AND THE PUBLIC-- HAVE.

THIS COUNTRY HAS GOTTEN WEAK SINCE 9/11. THIS WILL MAKE US STRONG AGAIN.

FROM THERE IT SHOULD BE AN EASY MATTER OF GETTING A FIGURE-HEAD INTO THE OVAL OFFICE--
--I HEAR TRUMP WANTS TO RUN--
--AND THEN, GENTLEMEN... THEN WE RULE THE WORLD.

THAT IDEA IS COMPLETELY INSANE.

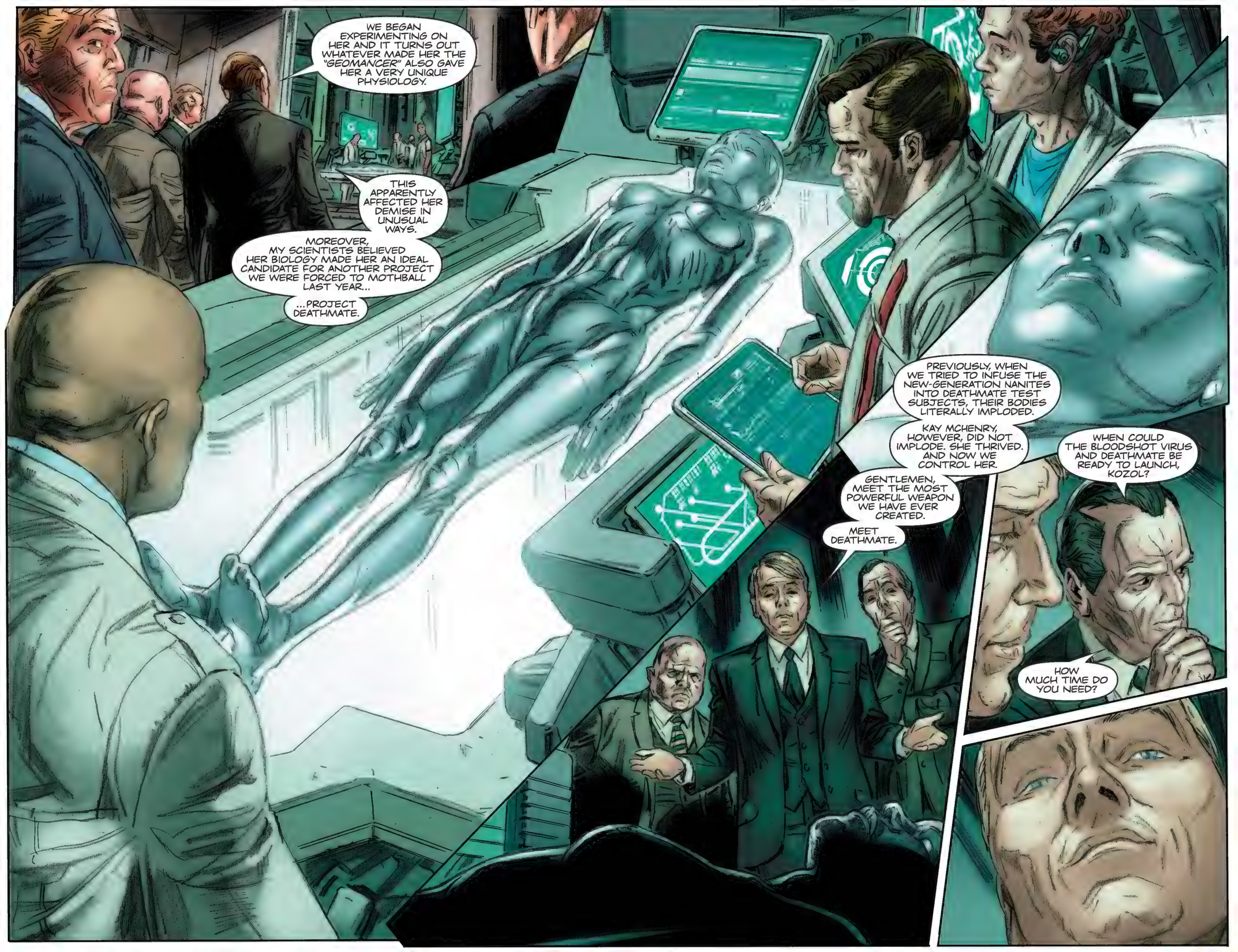

IT'S MADNESS... LUNACY.

I DON'T KNOW... IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF BRILLIANT.

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
WHICH IS WHY IT'S GOING TO WORK. BUT, MY FRIENDS, YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEEN THE BEST PART...
IF YOU'D FOLLOW ME, PLEASE.

AFTER KAY MCHENRY, THE GEOMANCER, WAS KILLED, I HAD HER BODY SECRETLY EXHUMED.

I THOUGHT A GEOMANCER, EVEN A DEAD ONE, WOULD BE WORTH TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT.
I WAS RIGHT.


WE BEGAN EXPERIMENTING ON HER AND IT TURNS OUT WHATEVER MADE HER THE "GEOMANCER" ALSO GAVE HER A VERY UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY.
THIS APPARENTLY AFFECTED HER DEMISE IN UNUSUAL WAYS.
MOREOVER, MY SCIENTISTS BELIEVED HER BIOLOGY MADE HER AN IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR ANOTHER PROJECT WE WERE FORCED TO MOTHBALL LAST YEAR...
...PROJECT DEATHMATE.
PREVIOUSLY, WHEN WE TRIED TO INFUSE THE NEW-GENERATION NANITES INTO DEATHMATE TEST SUBJECTS, THEIR BODIES LITERALLY IMPLODED.
KAY MCHENRY, HOWEVER, DID NOT IMPLODE. SHE THRIVED. AND NOW WE CONTROL HER.
GENTLEMEN, MEET THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WE HAVE EVER CREATED.
MEET DEATHMATE.
WHEN COULD THE BLOODSHOT VIRUS AND DEATHMATE BE READY TO LAUNCH, KOZOL?
HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU NEED?

ONE YEAR LATER.
MANHATTAN.

THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
THIS IS INSANE.
IT'S BEEN AT LEAST A WEEK SINCE WE GOT OFF THE DAMN ISLAND.
WE'RE GONNA STARVE OUT HERE!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO STARVE. JUST DIVE DOWN AND CATCH ANOTHER SHARK OR FISH IF YOU'RE HUNGRY.
I'M SICK OF FISH!
YEAH, WELL I'M ABOUT SICK OF YOU, VIET MAN!
SICK OF YOUR WHINING AND COMPLAINING.
I SWEAR YOU YOUNGER GENERATIONS GOT NO DAMN PATIENCE.
PATIENCE?! I GOT PATIENCE WHEN IT MATTERS--
--BUT WE'RE JUST FLOATING OUT HERE WITH NO DAMN HOPE, OLD MAN!
AT LEAST ON THE DAMN ISLAND WE HAD SOMETHING TO DO EVERY DAY!
YOU MEAN, GETTING HUNTED AND SLAUGHTERED BY DEATHMATE EVERY DAY?
YEAH, THAT WAS THE LIFE! OH, HOW I MISS BEING A MOVING TARGET.

BOTH OF YOU, BE QUIET!
DON'T YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?
WHAT?
I HEAR NOTHING, COMRADE. WHAT IS IT YOU THINK YOU HEAR?
PROBABLY MY STOMACH GROWLING.
SHHHH!
NO, LOOK!
IT'S JUST A BIRD.
THAT AIN'T NO BIRD.
WE'RE RESCUED!
I KNOW THAT PLANE...

NINJAK.
BLOODSHOT, LONG TIME NO SEE. LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'VE MADE SOME FRIENDS.
A FEW.
NO TIME FOR SMALL TALK, I'M AFRAID.
WE'VE A BIT OF AN EMERGENCY ON OUR HANDS IN NEW YORK... AND I THINK I NEED YOUR HELP.

MANHATTAN.

FESTIVAL, THIS--THIS CAN'T REALLY BE HAPPENING?
OH IT'S HAPPENING ALL RIGHT, MAGIC.
AND YOU AND AGENT FESTIVAL GET A FRONT ROW SEAT.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL FROM UP HERE TOO, LIKE ANTS... MY LITTLE RED AND WHITE ARMY ANTS.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SMUG?
HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS OF INNOCENTS ARE GOING TO DIE.

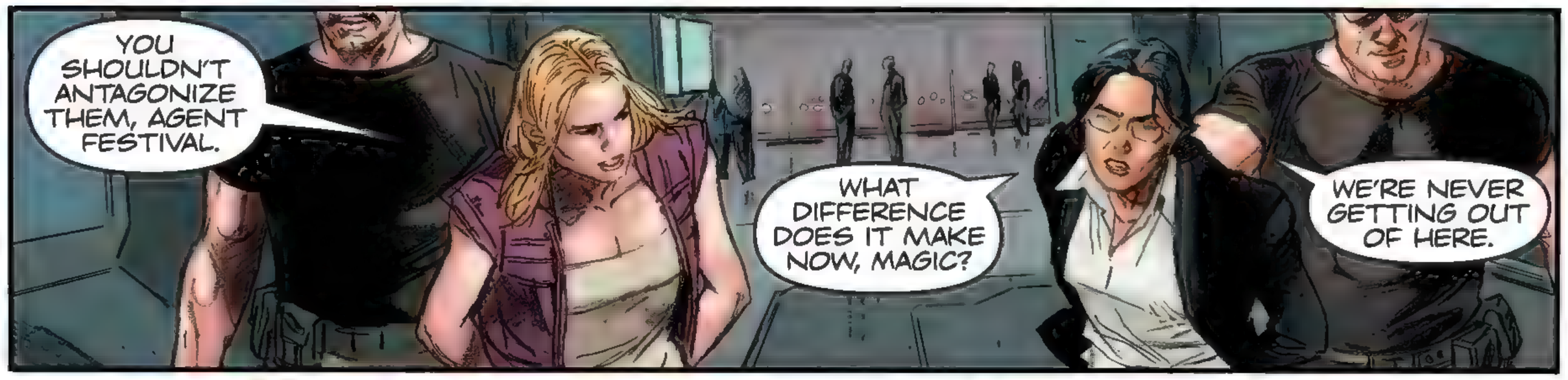
YOU ARE KILLING THEM, KOZOL!
SHORT-TERM LOSS FOR LONG-TERM GAIN, AGENT FESTIVAL.

WHEN THIS IS OVER, AMERICA WILL BE SAFER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN.
LET'S HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, KOZOL.

MAKE IT STOP! MAKE IT STOP!
TSK... TEMPER, TEMPER, AGENT FESTIVAL.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE A FEW NANITES IN YOU?

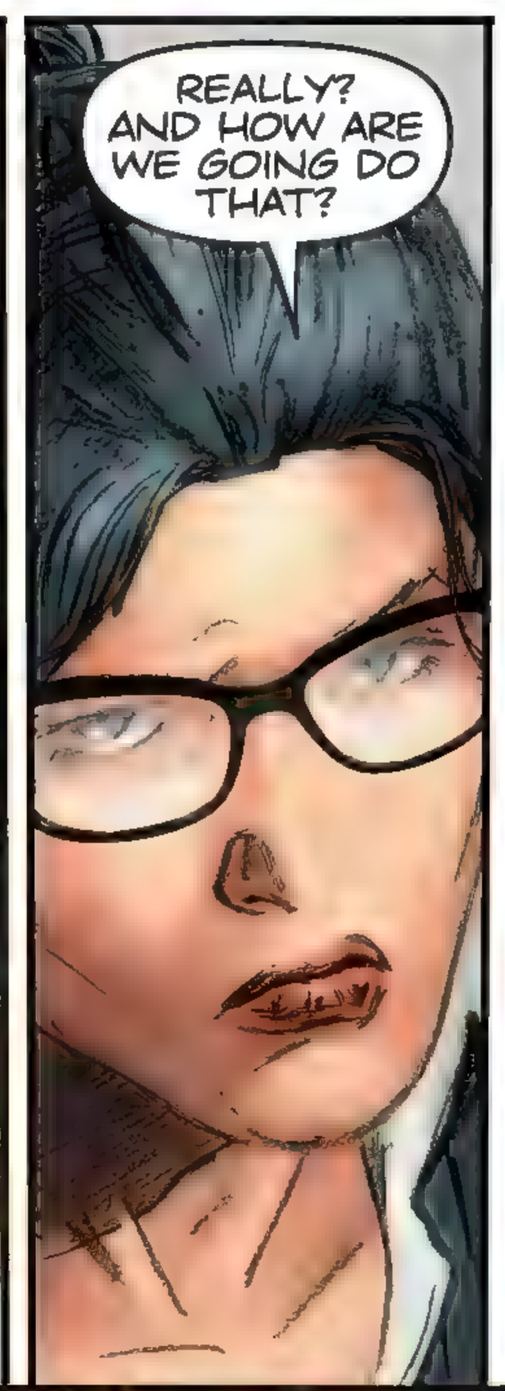
STAND DOWN, OR I WILL SHOOT YOU!
GO AHEAD! WE'RE ALL AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY!
I SAW WHAT THESE THINGS CAN DO IN COLORADO!
WAS THAT YOU TOO, KOZOL?!

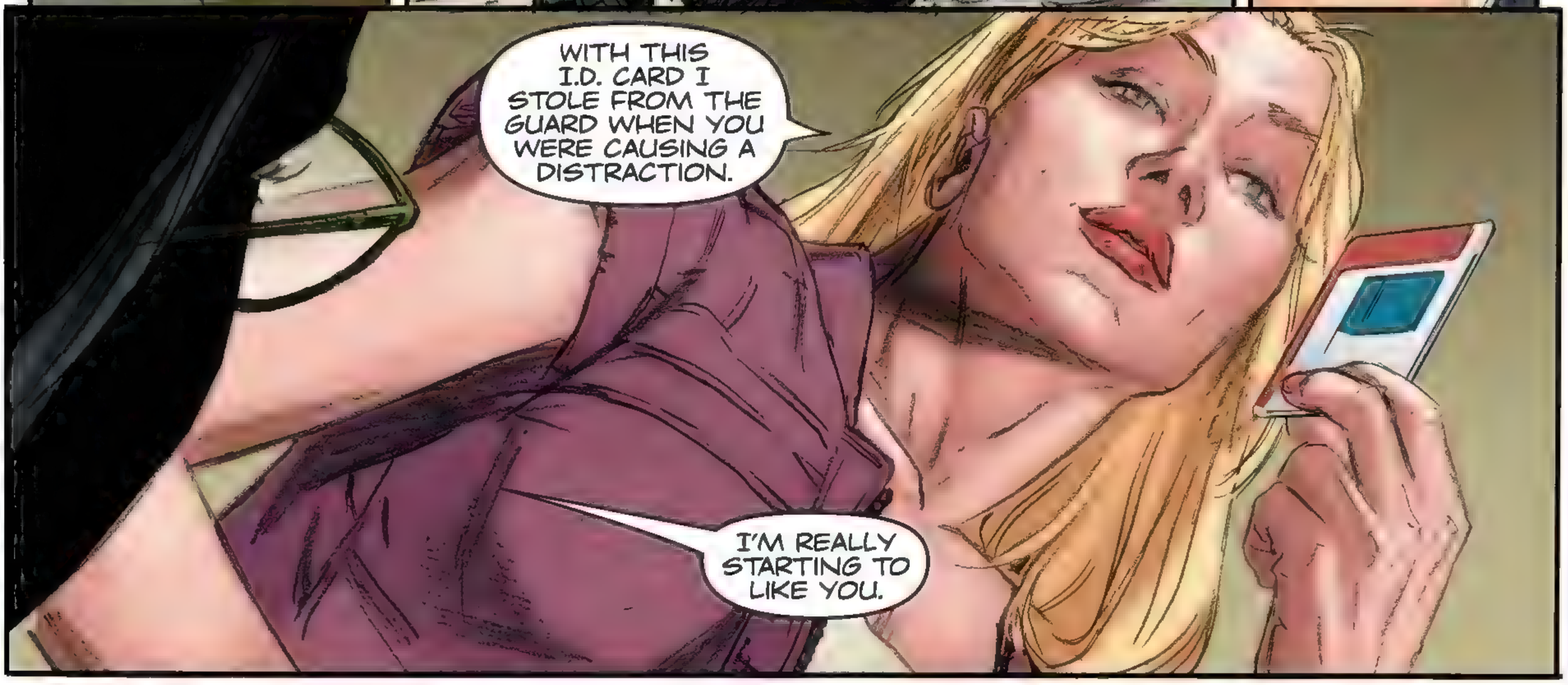
NO, BUT IT GAVE ME THE IDEA.
TAKE HER TO HOLDING. I DON'T WANT HER HARMED YET.


YOU SHOULDN'T ANTAGONIZE THEM, AGENT FESTIVAL.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE NOW, MAGIC?
WE'RE NEVER GETTING OUT OF HERE.

NOT IF YOU KEEP TRYING TO KILL THEM, WE WON'T!

AND WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE DO?
I'D SUGGEST WE WAIT UNTIL THOSE TWO ARE BACK DOWN THE HALLWAY, THEN WE GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.


REALLY? AND HOW ARE WE GOING DO THAT?

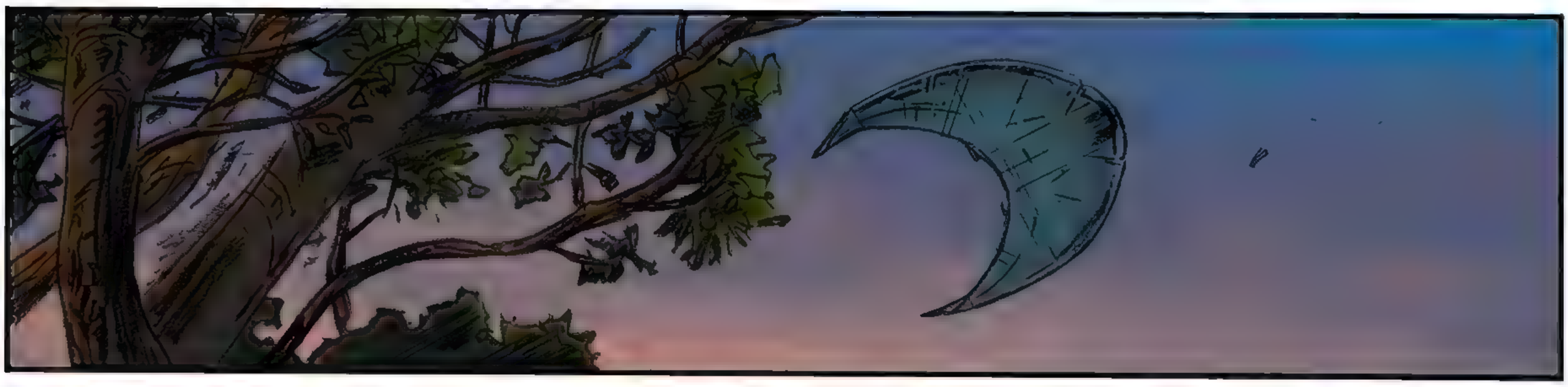

WITH THIS I.D. CARD I STOLE FROM THE GUARD WHEN YOU WERE CAUSING A DISTRACTION.
I'M REALLY STARTING TO LIKE YOU.

RUN! DON'T LOOK BACK, JUST RUN!!
MOMMY!!
MOMMY!!
NO!
G.A.T.E. HEADQUARTERS.
THINGS ARE SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL!
WHERE THE HELL IS UNITY?!
WE'RE HERE, CAPSHAW...
?!

GIN-GR, WE NEED TO CONTAIN AS MANY OF THESE... THESE BLOODSHOTS, AS POSSIBLE.
AFFIRMATIVE. PROTECTION AND CONTAINMENT PROTOCOLS INITIATED.

IT'S WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT, CAPSHAW.
IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF VIRUS IT'S SPREADING FAST.
THERE ARE ALREADY HUNDREDS OF INFECTED AND THEY ARE WREAKING HAVOC!
EVEN WITH GIN-GR TRYING TO CONTAIN THINGS, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...
...WE NEED TO GET TO THE SOURCE OF THIS THING!
I HEAR YOU, LIVEWIRE--
--NINJAK IS EN ROUTE WITH THE REAL BLOODSHOT.
WE'RE HOPING THAT HE CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING.
IS THIS THING NANITE-BASED, LIVEWIRE?
DEFINITELY. I CAN SENSE NANITES EVERYWHERE.
GRRRAAHHH!!
CAN YOU USE YOUR POWERS TO ACCESS THEM, SHUT THEM DOWN?
I CAN TRY, BUT WITH THIS MANY I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN POSSIBLY SLOW THE SPREAD!

I-I CAN'T LOCK ON TO ANY ONE OF THEM. THERE ARE TOO MANY NANITES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN TOO MANY?! CAN'T YOU JUST FOCUS ON ONE OF THESE INFECTED AT A TIME?
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, CAPSHAW...THE NANITES ARE EVERYWHERE! THEY'RE IN THE AIR!



JESUS.
IT'S LIKE COLORADO ALL OVER AGAIN.
THIS IS FAR WORSE THAN COLORADO, BLOODSHOT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS?
HOW THIS IS HAPPENING?
NO. I--IT HAS TO BE PROJECT RISING SPIRIT.
YOU CAN BET YOUR BRITCHES IT'S THOSE SONS OF BITCHES, ALL RIGHT!
THAT MUCH WE'RE PRETTY MUCH SURE OF, BUT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY TRACE OF RISING SPIRIT.
ALL THEIR KNOWN BASES OF OPERATION HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE GHOSTS.

SOMEHOW, THIS IS MY FAULT. I KNOW IT.
THESE THINGS ARE A CURSE, ALL THEY DO IS HURT AND KILL.

DON'T BE SO NARCISSISTIC.

EXCUSE ME?
YOU HEARD ME. THIS ISN'T ABOUT *YOU.* NOT ANYMORE.
THIS IS ABOUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN NEW YORK.
AND WE ALL KNOW HOW YOU TEND TO GET-- *SHALL WE SAY*-- A BIT INDULGENT IN YOUR SELF-PITY.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. YOU DON'T HAVE THESE DAMN NANITES IN YOUR BLOOD, NINJAK.
THOSE NANITES IN YOUR BLOOD MAY BE THE VERY THING THAT CAN STOP THIS.
PERHAPS YOU CAN ABSORB THEM LIKE YOU DID IN COLORADO?
THERE WERE ONLY A FEW INFECTED IN COLORADO...NOT LIKE THIS.
LUCKILY YOU BROUGHT SOME BACK UP.
LOOK, WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID.
YOU AND LIVEWIRE, THE TRIGGER YOU PUT IN ME TO WAKE ME UP.
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, MATE.
NO, IT WASN'T. I'D STILL BE STUCK ON FANTASY ISLAND IF YOU HADN'T.
I WISH WE'D LOCATED YOU SOONER. THE ISLAND MUST HAVE HAD SOME KIND OF CLOAKING TECH.
BUT ONCE IT WENT DOWN, YOU ALL POPPED UP ON MI-6 RADAR.
IT'S REALLY NOT A-A-
NINJAK?
GRRNNN!!
NINJAK?!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WELL, G.A.T.E. AND MI-6 HAVE DISPATCHED THEIR TOY SOLDIERS AS EXPECTED.
BUT I DIDN'T COUNT ON THE BLOODSHOTS GETTING OFF THAT ISLAND.
SO I NEEDED TO MOVE UP THE SCHEDULE A LITTLE BIT. WE'RE ENTERING PHASE TWO.
PHASE TWO? I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT ANY PHASE TWO, KOZOL!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
WHAT I NEEDED TO. YOU SEE, LIVEWIRE WAS RIGHT, THE NANITES ARE EVERYWHERE.
THEY HAVE BEEN IN NEW YORK'S WATER SUPPLY AND AIR FOR MONTHS NOW.
YOU MEAN...
...ANYONE.
YES. ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN IN NEW YORK IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS IS ALREADY INFECTED.
THE HELL IS WRONG WITH HIM?!
I DON'T KNOW!

"I CAN TURN ANY OF THEM 'ON' OR 'OFF' AT ANY MOMENT.
"WE CONTROL THEM ALL."
HUURNN!!
LIVEWIRE?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THOOM
LIVEWIRE?!

ARE-ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?
VIET MAN AND QUIET MAN ARE DOWN AND OUT, BUT COLD MAN IS--
I AM ALIVE. IN A BIT OF A TOUGH SPOT, COMRADE RAY, BUT I WILL HEAL.
GOTTA GET HIM FREE OF THAT WRECKAGE FIRST.
YEAH, GIVE ME A HAND.
HERE WE GO. ON THREE. ONE, TWO...
SHAK
GK!!

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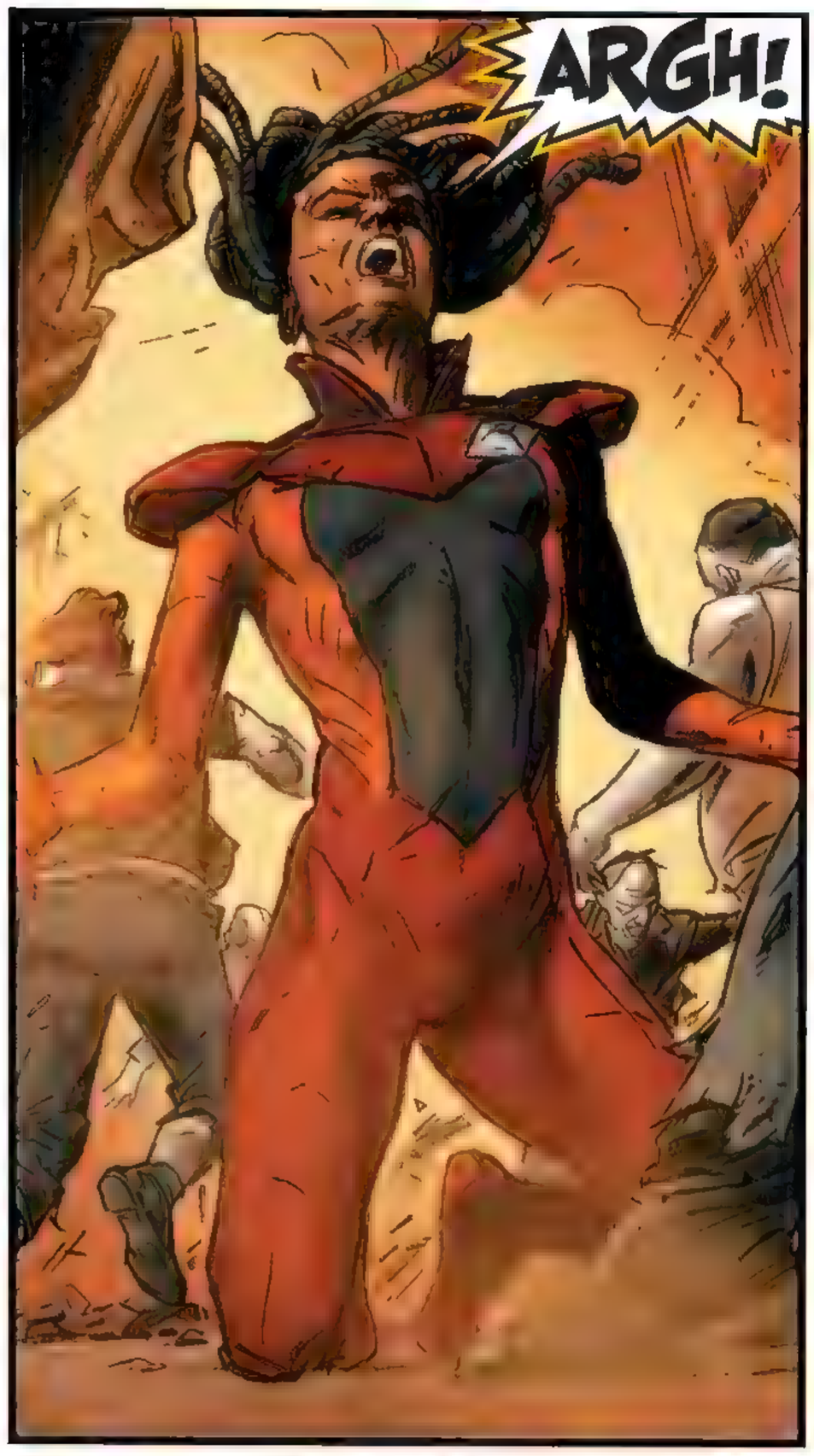
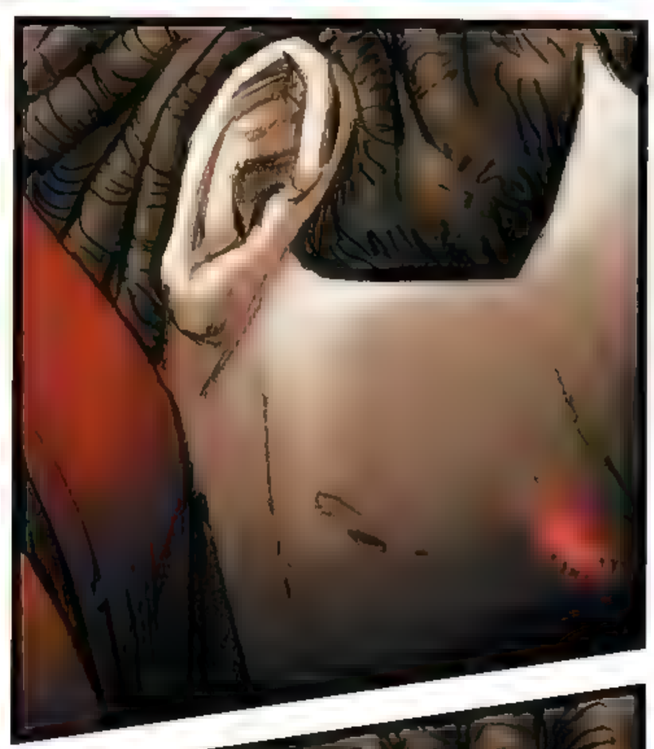
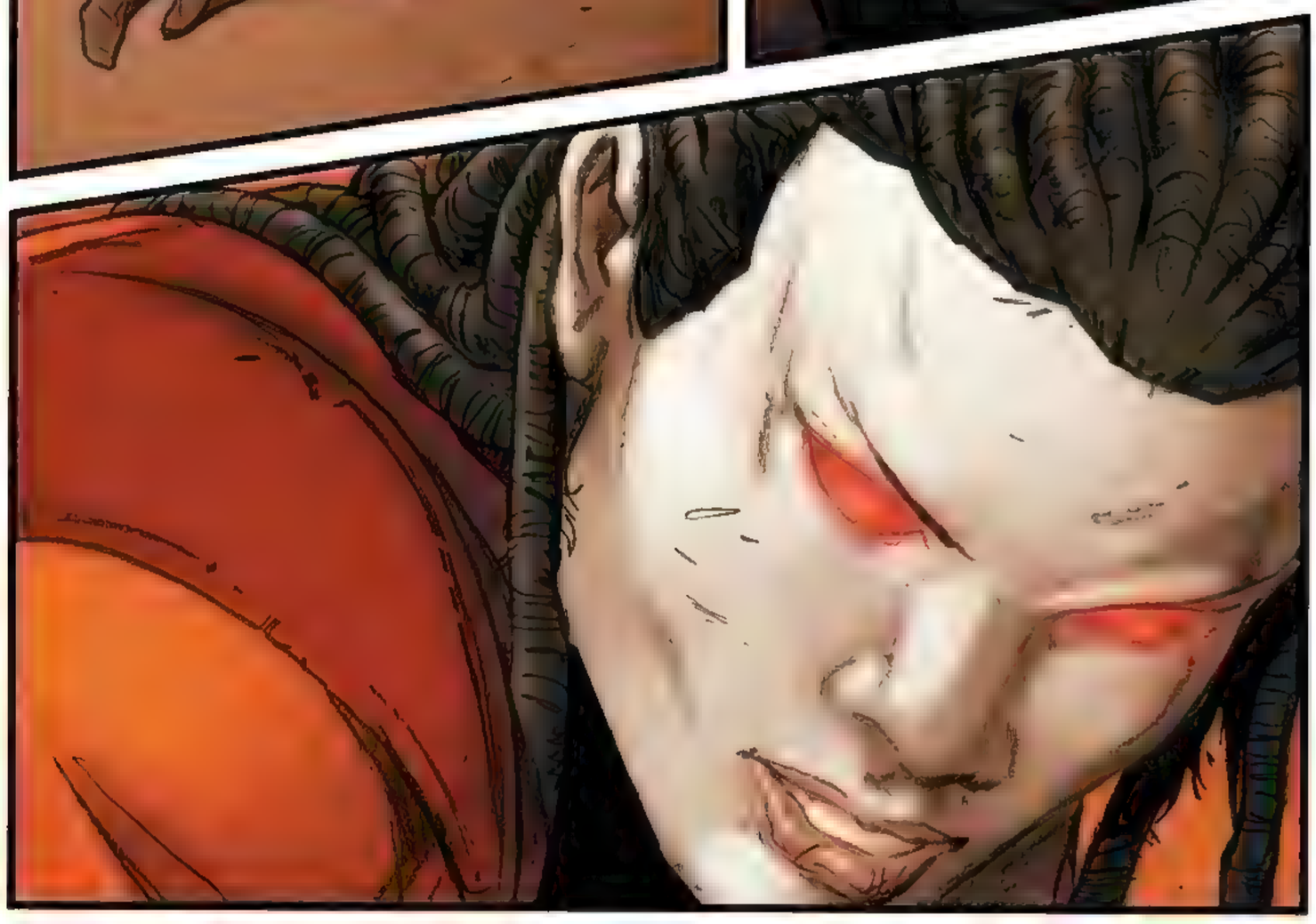
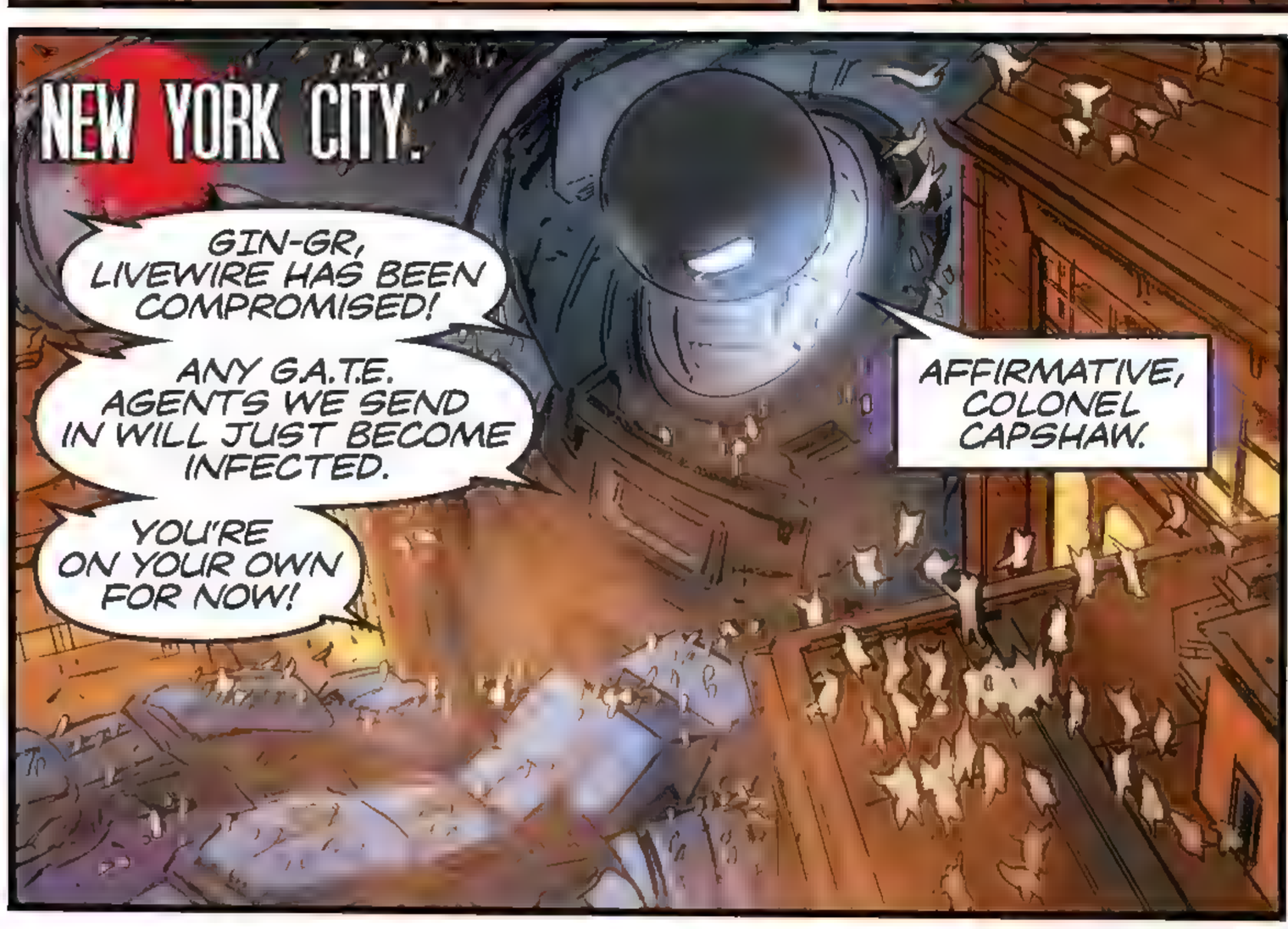
G.A.T.E. HEADQUARTERS.
LIVEWIRE?! I-I THINK THE NANITE VIRUS HAS LIVEWIRE!
NNNNG--!! F-FIGHTING... TRYING...


ARGH!

SHE'S DOWN!

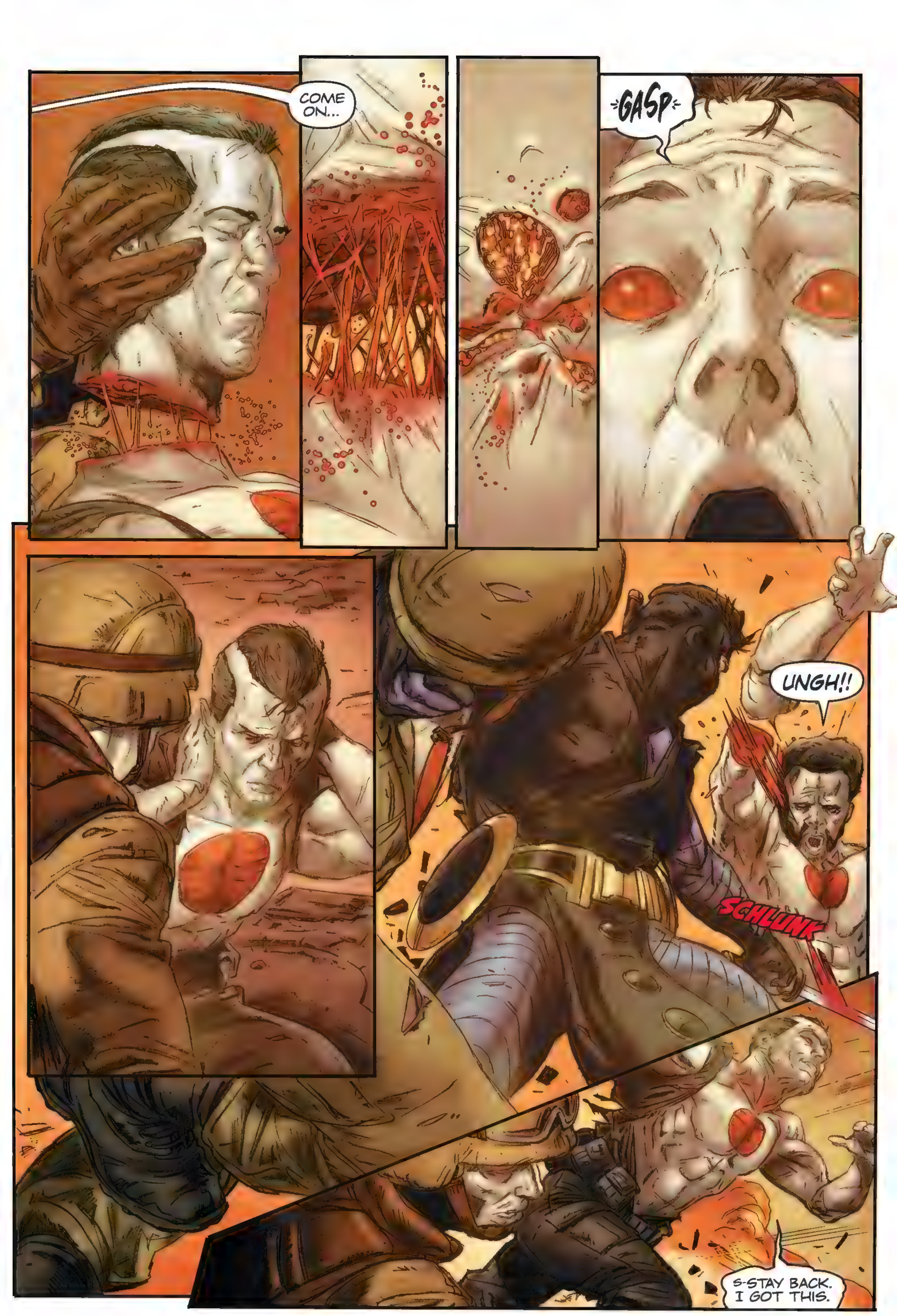




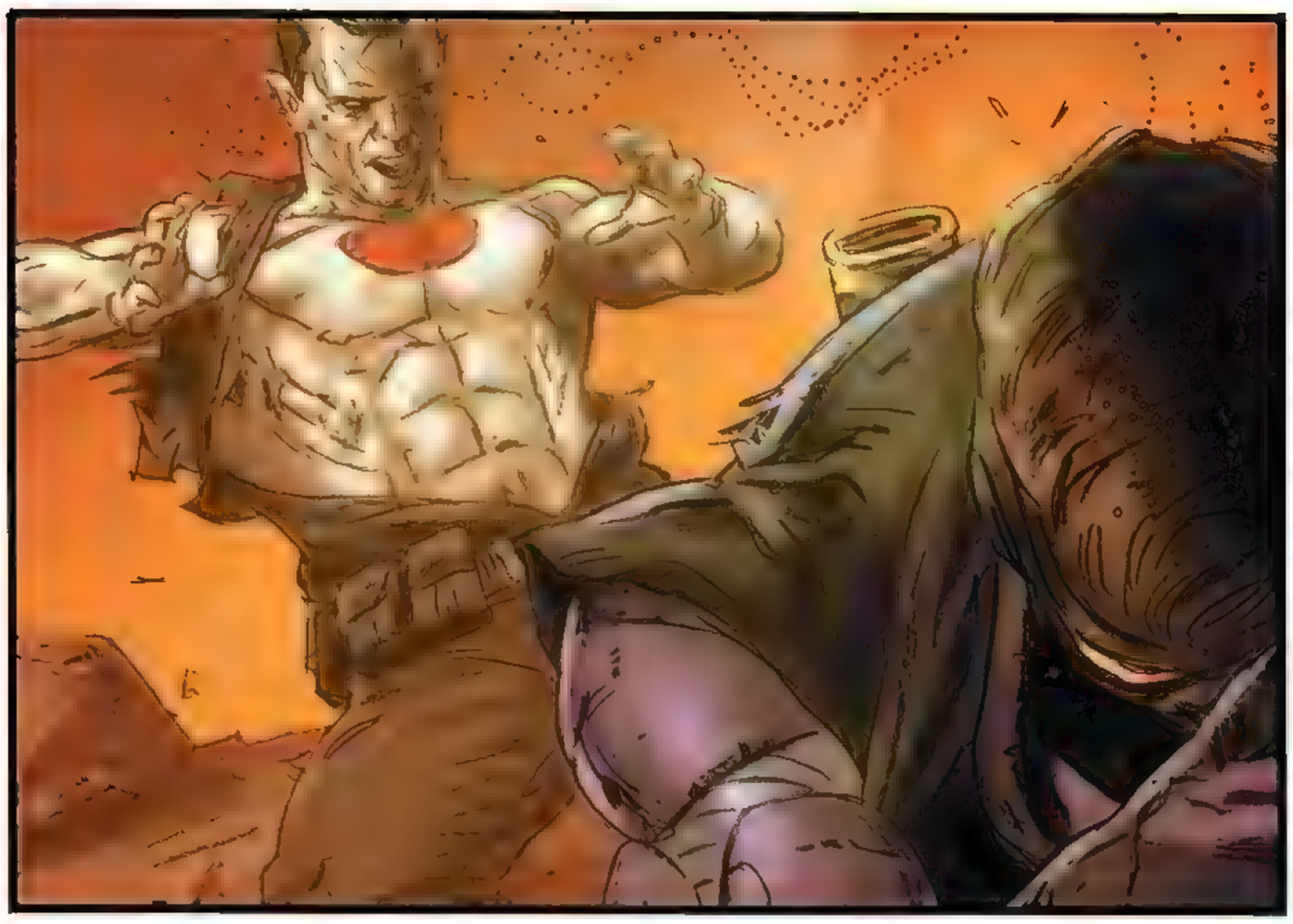

NEW YORK CITY.
GIN-GR, LIVEWIRE HAS BEEN COMPROMISED!
ANY G.A.T.E. AGENTS WE SEND IN WILL JUST BECOME INFECTED.
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN FOR NOW!
AFFIRMATIVE, COLONEL CAPSHAW.

NOW... WHERE THE HELL IS NINJAK!?

NEW JERSEY.
TANK MAN! HOW COME THE NINJA DUDE WENT ALL PALE LIKE US?!
HE JUST CUT OFF RAY'S HEAD! THERE'S NO WAY HE'S ONE OF US!
QUIET MAN! GET THE HEAD!
WHAT?
THE HEAD! GIVE HIM BACK HIS DAMNED NOGGIN!
COME ON, NANITES...
...DO YOUR THING.


COME ON...
GASP
UNGH!!
SCHLUNK
S-STAY BACK. I GOT THIS.

NINJAK, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
UNGH!
GUESS NOT. SORRY ABOUT THIS...
HOLD STILL, THIS MIGHT HURT A BIT.
NGGH!
JUST LIKE IN COLORADO. ALL I GOTTA DO IS TAKE THE NANITES BACK...
TAKE THEM BACK!
AARRGH!!

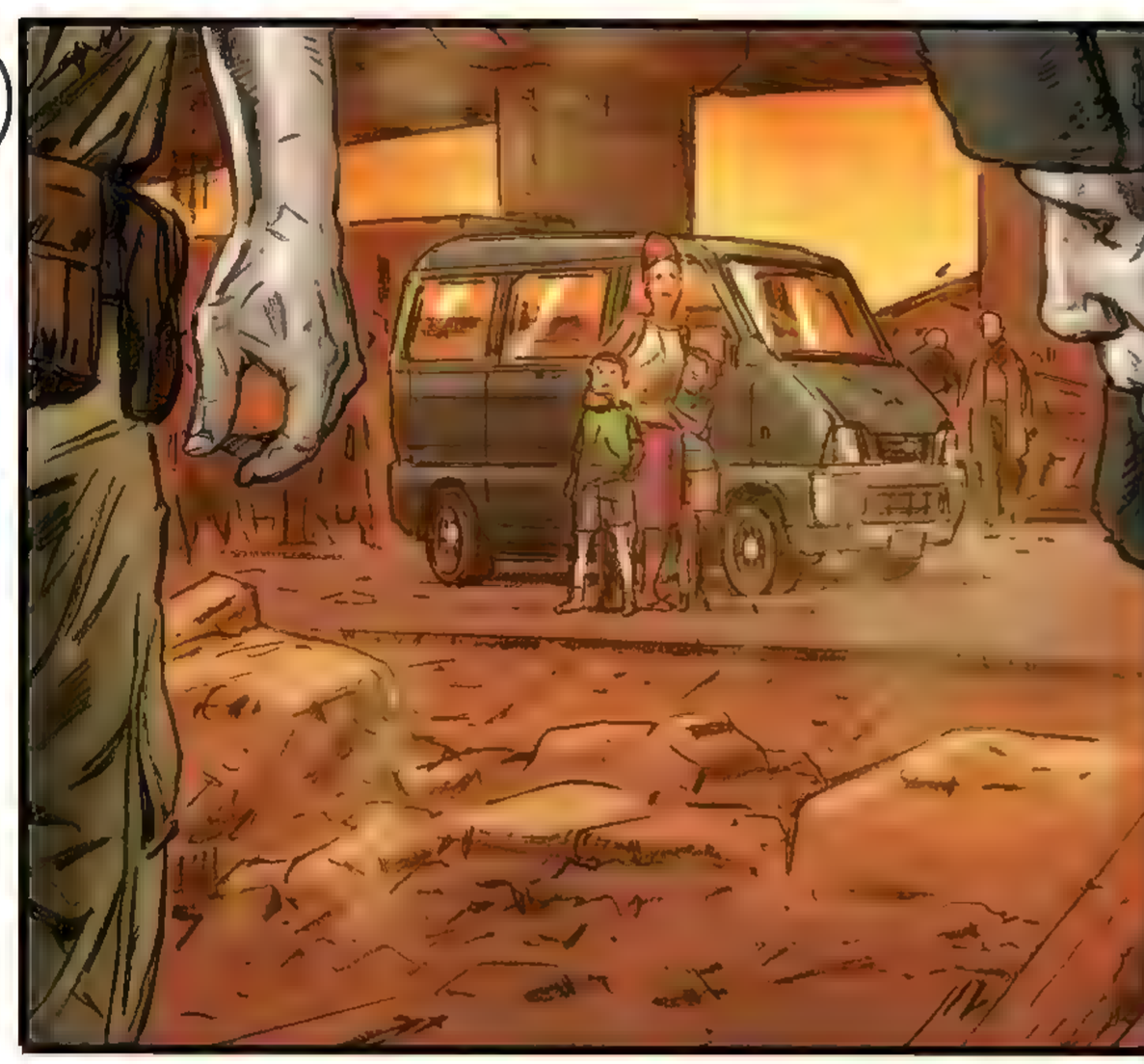


BLOODY HELL!!

I DIDN'T KNOW WE COULD DO THAT?!
YEAH, I FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY A LITTLE WHILE BACK.
I'M THINKING WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A HELL OF A LOT OF IT WHEN WE GET TO THE CITY.

WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO GET THERE FIRST.
MY PLANE HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS.

OKAY, SO WE NEED A NEW RIDE. ANYONE HAVE ANY IDEAS?



THIS IS BLOODY HUMILIATING.

PRS PENTHOUSE BUNKER.
NEW YORK.
THIS IS PRETTY CRAZY, RIGHT?
WE'RE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, DUDE.
AGENT KOZOL KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

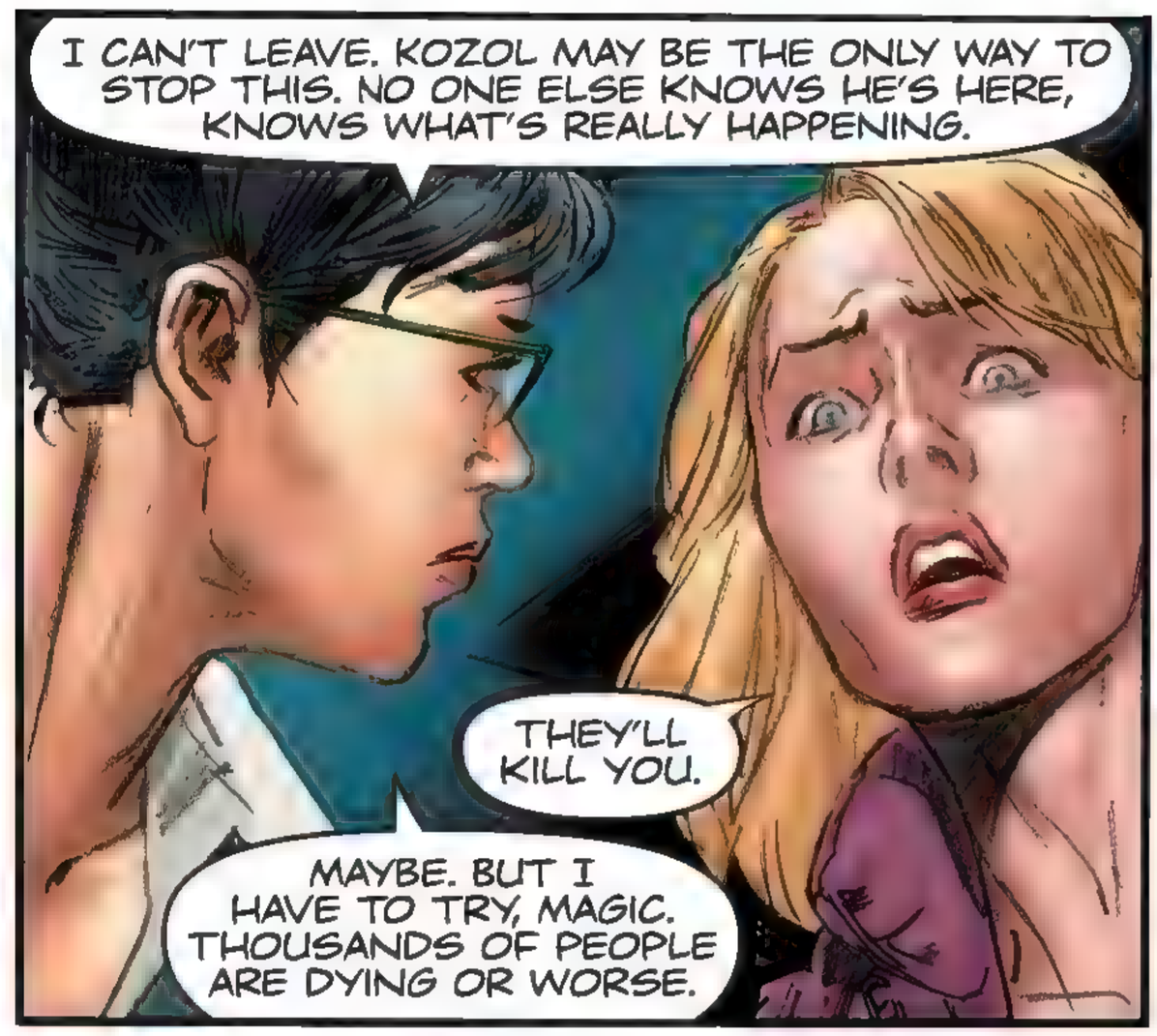
YEAH, BUT IT-- UNGH!
NNGH!
THNK
WHMP

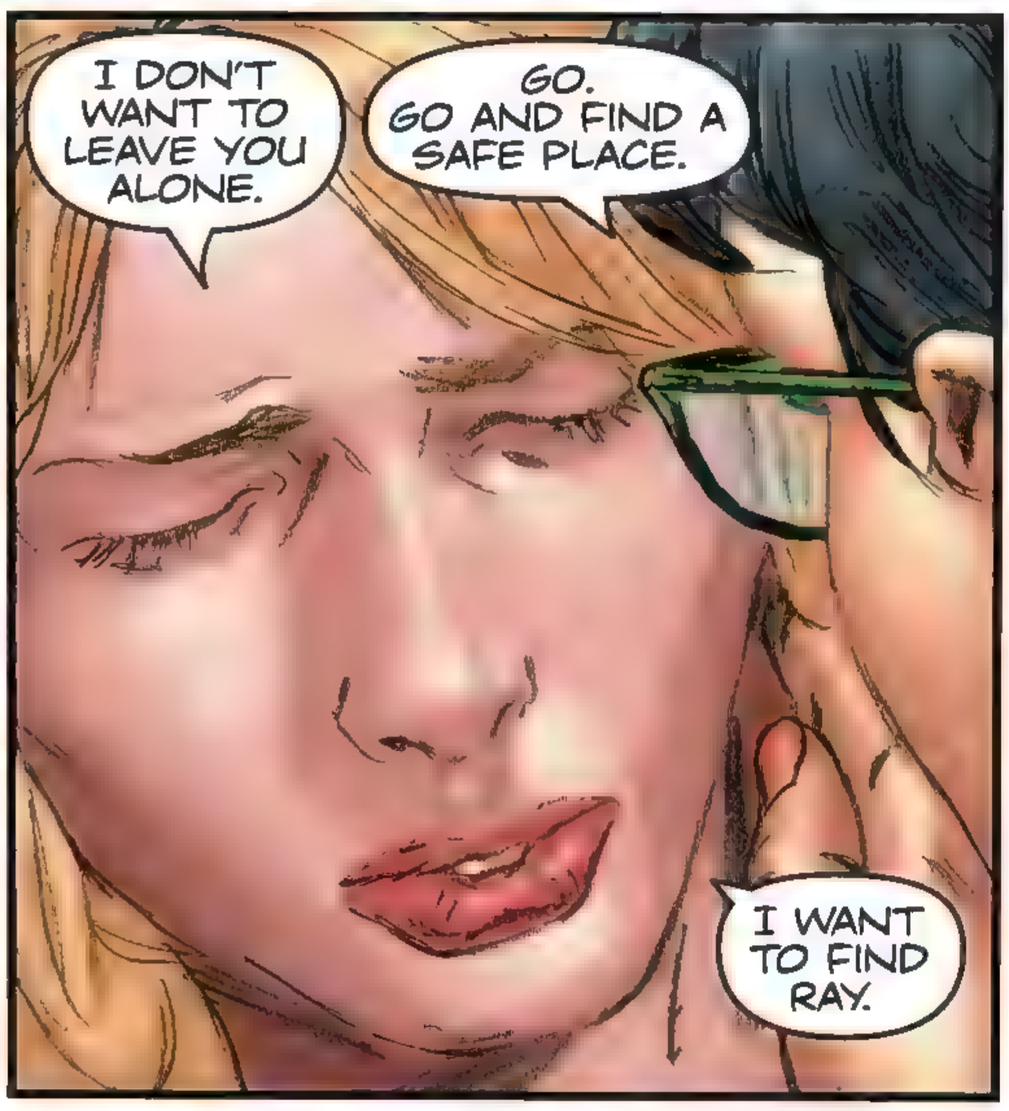
GET HIS GUN!
GOT IT.

HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?
ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU SAW WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!
THIS IS THE ONLY SAFE PLACE THERE IS!
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE ASKED! HOW THE HELL DO WE GET OUT?!

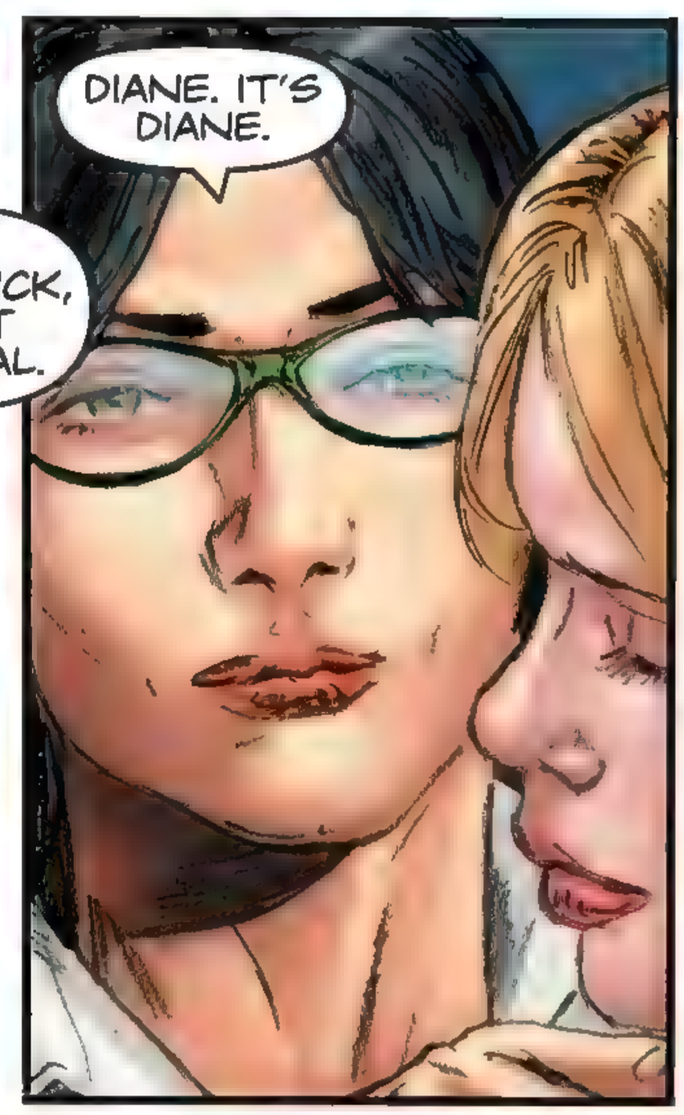
KEEP GOING UNTIL YOU SEE TWO ELEVATORS. THE LEFT GOES DOWN. THE RIGHT GOES UP.
BUT YOU WON'T MAKE IT. THERE ARE MORE--
THNK
THANKS.

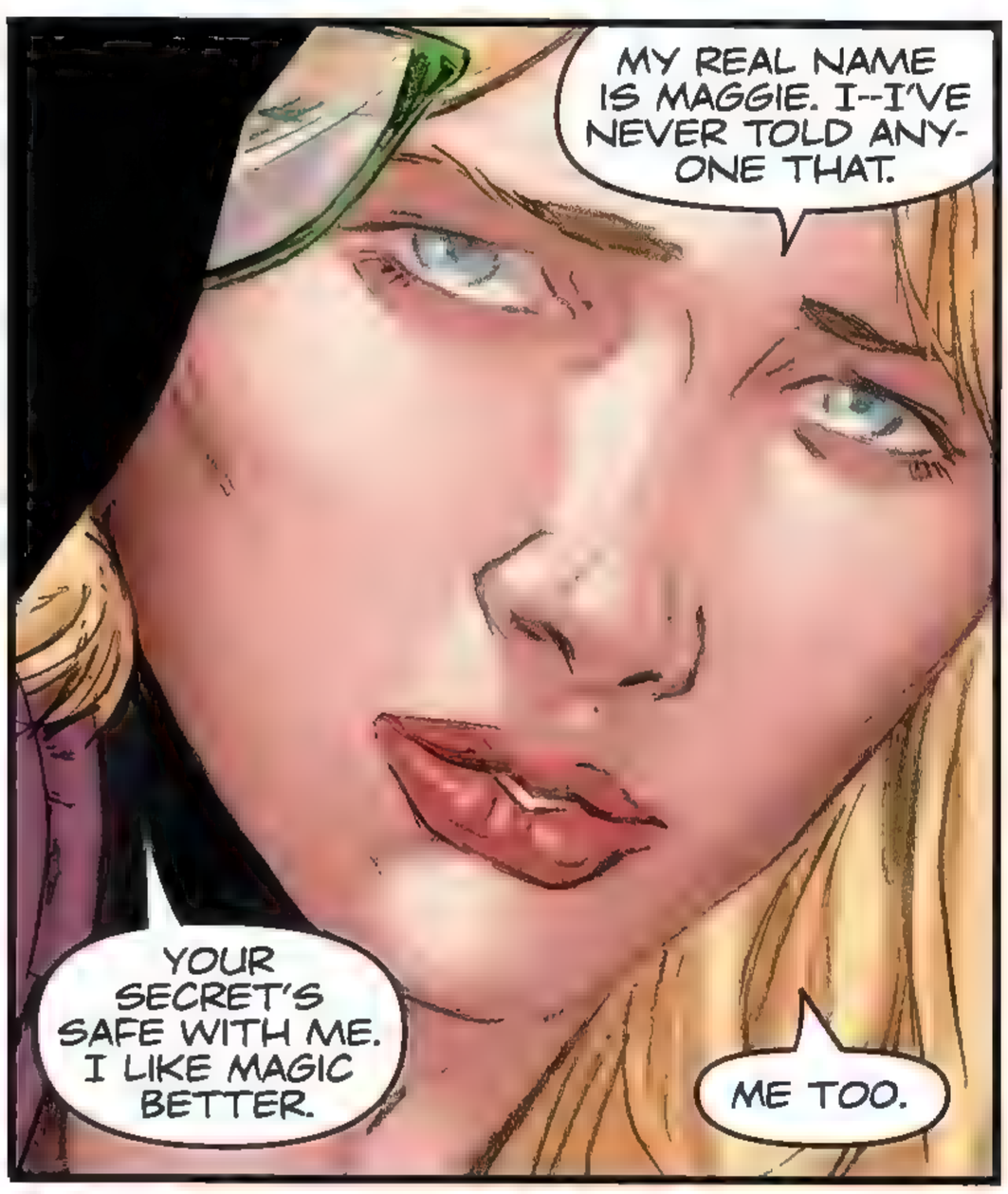
OKAY, YOU SHOULD GET GOING. WHEN YOU GET TO THE STREET HEAD SOUTH. BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS THE INFECTED WERE HEADING THE OTHER WAY.
WAIT, WHAT?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


I CAN'T LEAVE. KOZOL MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS. NO ONE ELSE KNOWS HE'S HERE, KNOWS WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING.
THEY'LL KILL YOU.
MAYBE. BUT I HAVE TO TRY, MAGIC. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE DYING OR WORSE.


I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE.
GO. GO AND FIND A SAFE PLACE.
I WANT TO FIND RAY.

THEN FIND HIM. IT LOOKED LIKE NINJAK'S PLANE WENT DOWN IN JERSEY, NOT FAR FROM THE TUNNEL.
OKAY. GOOD LUCK, AGENT FESTIVAL.


DIANE. IT'S DIANE.


MY REAL NAME IS MAGGIE. I--I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE THAT.
YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME. I LIKE MAGIC BETTER.
ME TOO.

GOOD LUCK, DIANE.
YOU TOO, MAGIC. REMEMBER, HEAD SOUTH!

COLONEL CAPSHAW, THIS IS GIN-GR. I CANNOT CONTAIN THE INFECTED MUCH LONGER.
I'M TRYING TO ROUND UP HELP, GIN-GR, BUT X-O ISN'T RESPONDING!
YOU JUST NEED TO CORRAL AS MANY OF THEM AS POSSIBLE!
AGENT CAPSHAW, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!
NO @#&@, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!
THE POPULACE OF NEW YORK CITY IS BEING TURNED INTO MINDLESS KILLERS AND ALL OF OUR BEST AGENTS ARE DOWN!
NO, IT'S THE MILITARY, THEY'VE MOBILIZED, THEY'RE MOVING IN ON THE HOT ZONE!
WHAT! WE GAVE EXPLICIT ORDERS TO KEEP THE MILITARY AWAY!
THE PRESIDENT AND THE JOINT CHIEFS AGREED!
G.A.T.E. IS RUNNING POINT ON THIS!
IT SEEMS THEY HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS, MA'AM. THE AIR FORCE AND NATIONAL GUARD ARE MOVING IN!
GODDAMNIT!! ANYONE THEY SEND IN THERE IS JUST GOING TO ADD TO THE PROBLEM!

FWOOOOSH
AIR SUPPORT DETECTED.
YEAH, WE GOT COMPANY, GIN-GR. LET'S JUST HOPE THEY DON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE!
NON-G.A.T.E. MILITARY VEHICLES APPROACHING.
GENERAL, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GET YOUR MEN KILLED!
G.A.T.E. HAS LOST CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, AGENT CAPSHAW. WE'RE TAKING OVER.
THEY ARE OVERTAKING US! DO WE HAVE PERMISSION TO FIRE?!
I REPEAT, DO WE HAVE PERMISSION TO OPEN FIRE?!
OH @#$% THIS!
AT-AT-AT-AT-AT

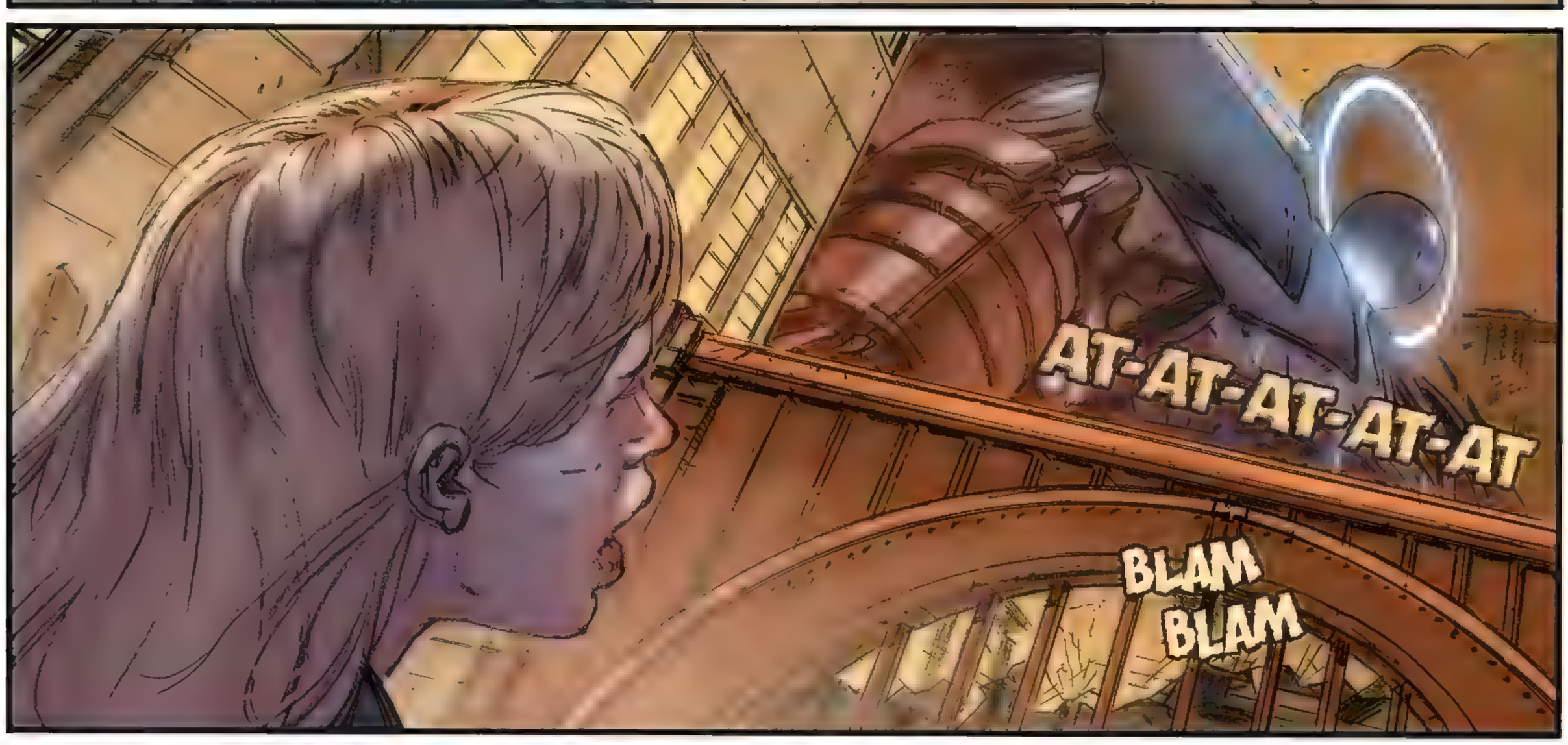
PUSH THEM BACK!!
AT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT

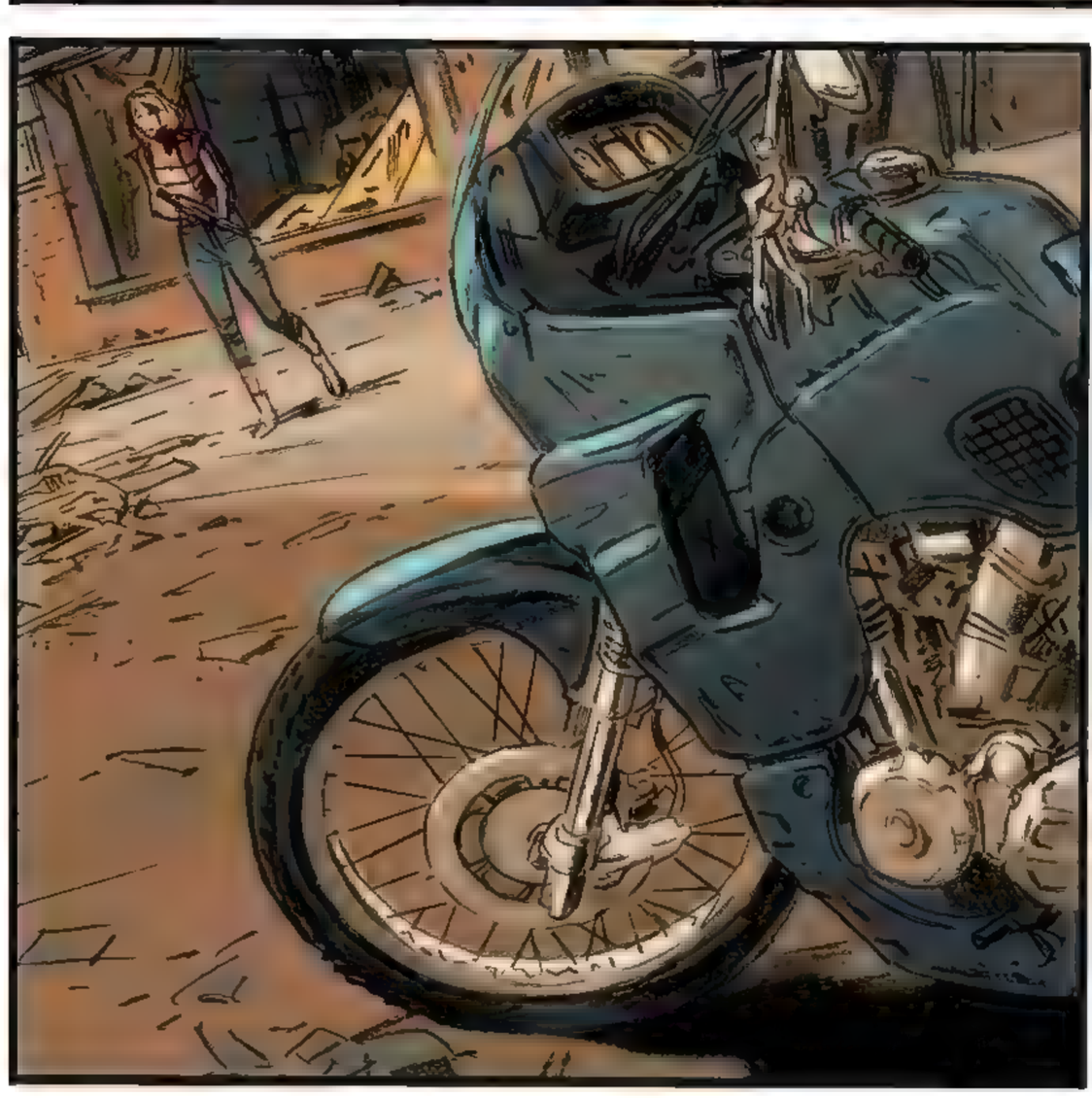
THOSE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE!!

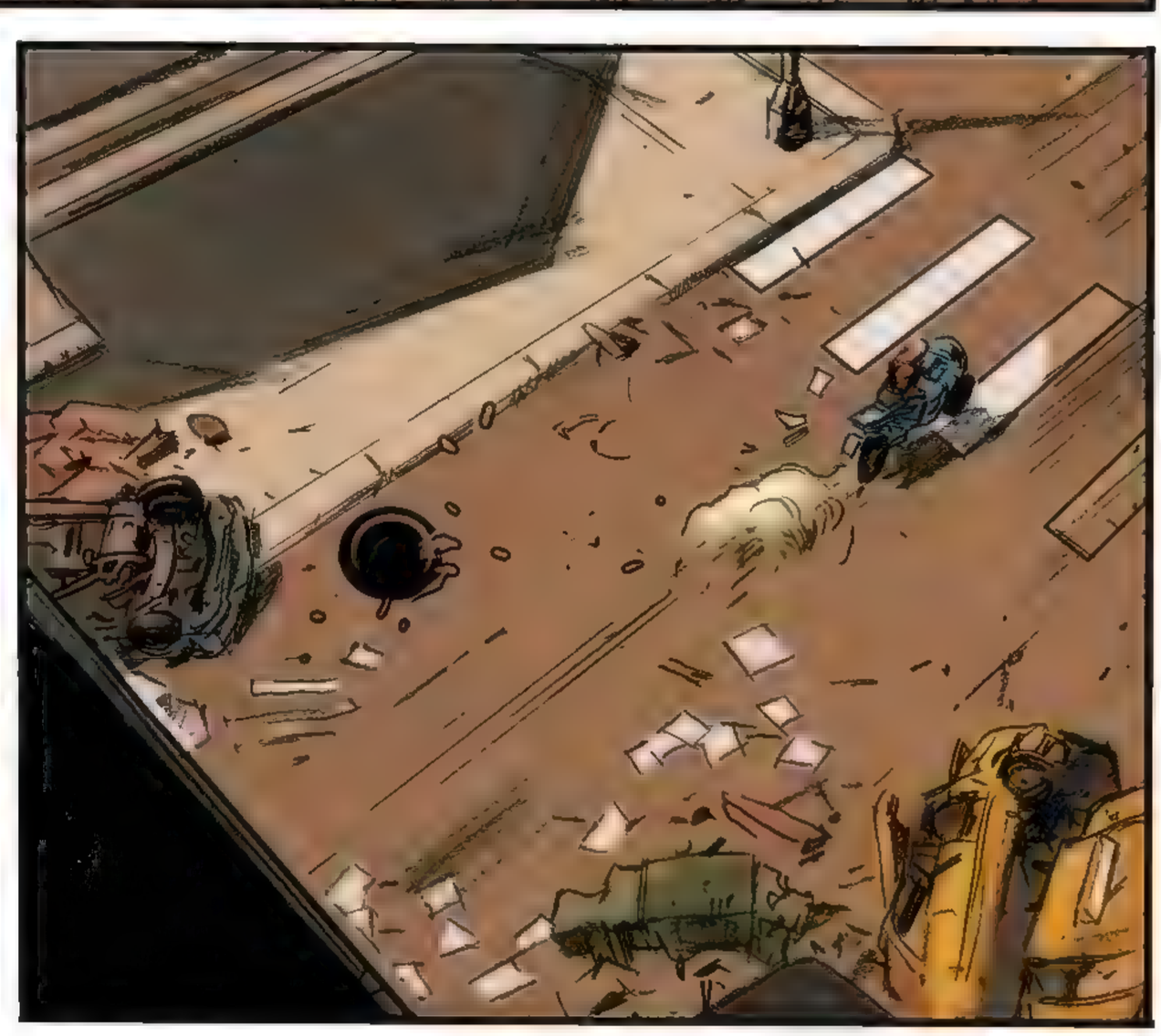
NO. THEY ARE HOSTILES. THE SITUATION NEEDS TO BE CONTAINED!

ARRRRRGHH!!!
"ALL YOU'VE DONE IS ARM THEM, GENERAL!"

BLAM
BLAM
AT-AT-
AT-AT-
AT

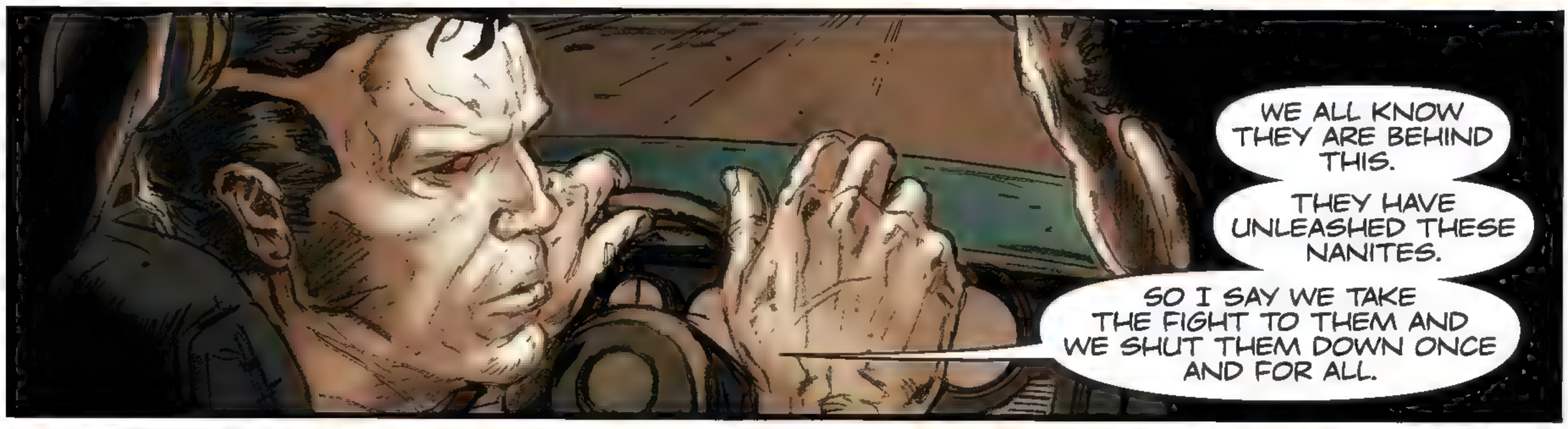

AT-AT-AT-AT-AT
BLAM
BLAM





EVERYONE IS TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE CITY.
AND YET HERE WE ARE GOING IN. MAYBE THEY'RE THE SMART ONES.
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT KIND OF TALK, SOLDIER! WE GOT US A JOB TO DO!
A JOB I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR.
FINALLY GOT OFF THAT DAMNED ISLAND--
--IF WE WERE SMART WE'D GET AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS WE CAN.
THIS AIN'T OUR FIGHT.
DA. I THINK, VIET MAN IS RIGHT. WE HAVE ALL SUFFERED ENOUGH...GIVEN SO MUCH, AND WE ARE FINALLY FREE.

I CAN'T MAKE ANY OF YOU DO ANYTHING.
BUT I DO KNOW THAT AS LONG AS PRS IS STILL OUT THERE, WE WILL NEVER BE FREE.


WE ALL KNOW THEY ARE BEHIND THIS.
THEY HAVE UNLEASHED THESE NANITES.
SO I SAY WE TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM AND WE SHUT THEM DOWN ONCE AND FOR ALL.

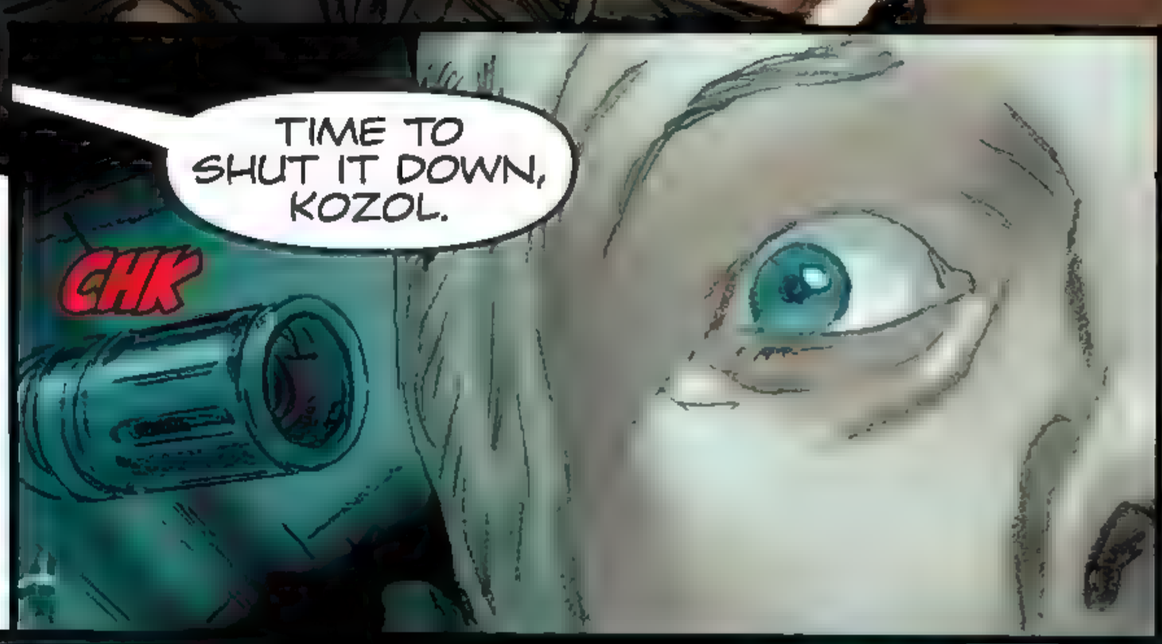
ROUSING SPEECH, BLOODSHOT...
...AND I HATE TO INTERRUPT--
--BUT DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
WHAT? NO. WHAT IS--
THOOM

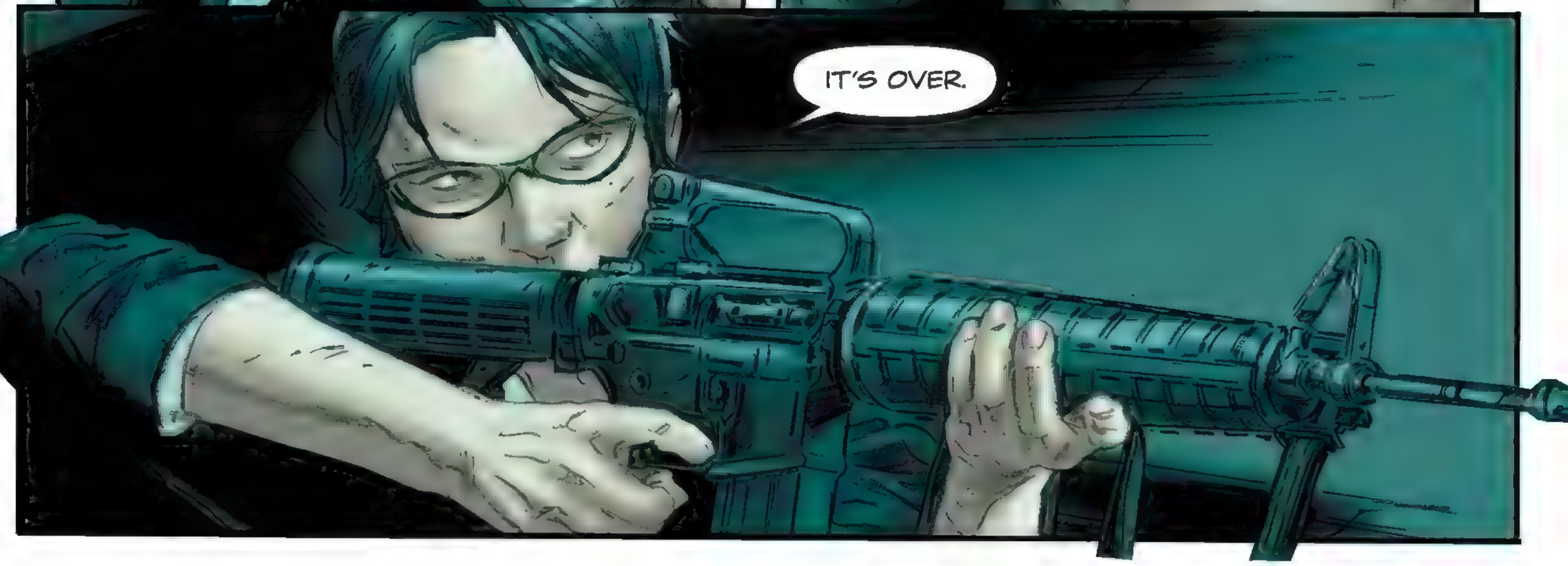
KAY?

DEATHMATE, DESTROY THE BLOODSHOTS AND NINJAK.

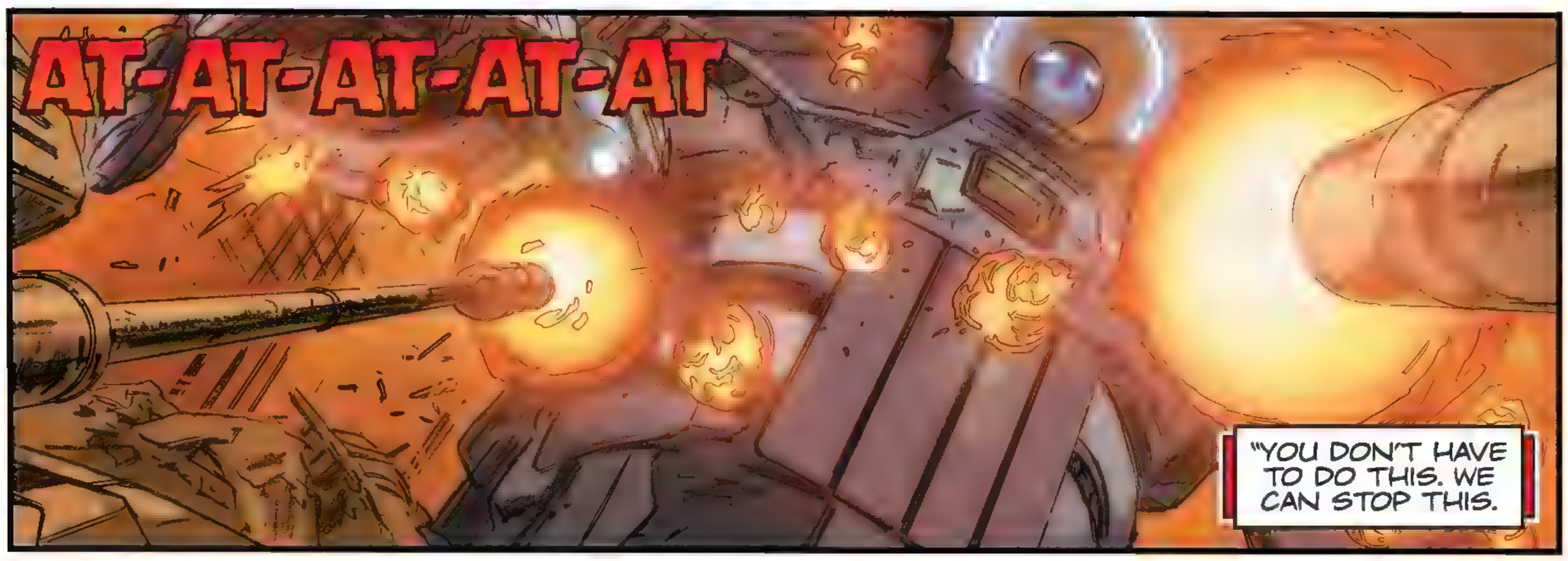
AFFIRMATIVE.
UNGH!
CHOOM

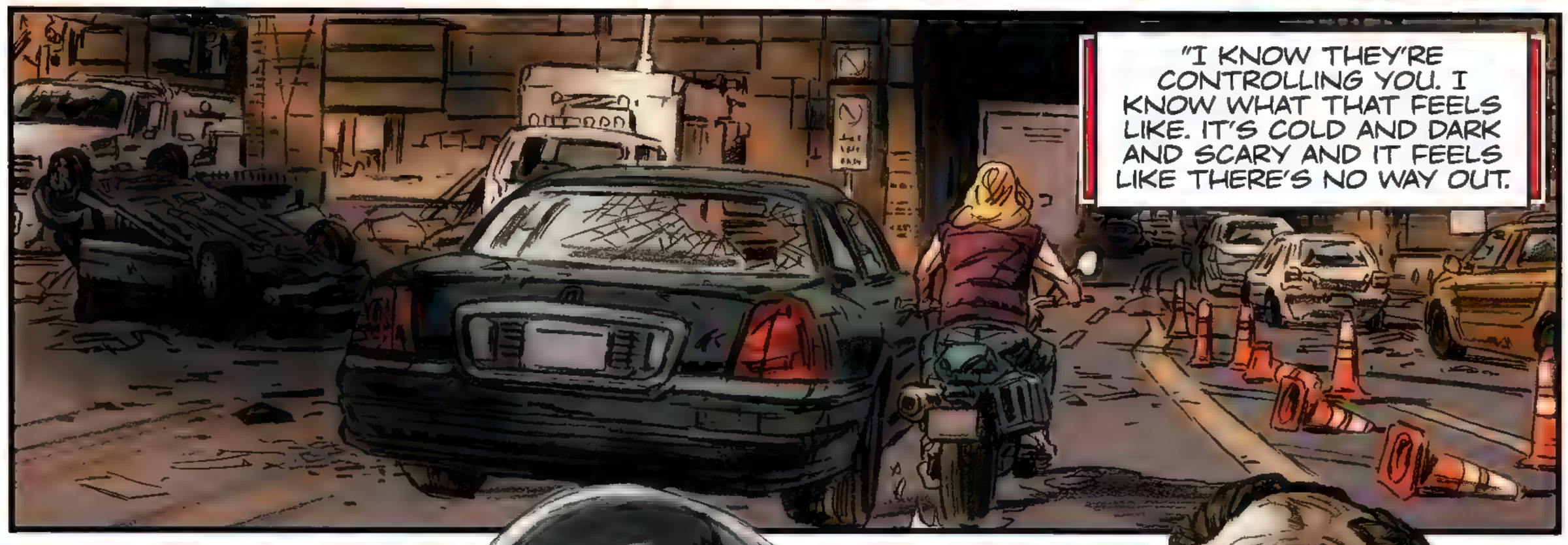
THAT'S IT, DEATHMATE. DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO ORGANIZE, KILL THEM ALL.


TIME TO SHUT IT DOWN, KOZOL.
CHK


IT'S OVER.

KAY! STOP!


AT-AT-AT-AT-AT
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS. WE CAN STOP THIS.


"I KNOW THEY'RE CONTROLLING YOU. I KNOW WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE. IT'S COLD AND DARK AND SCARY AND IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S NO WAY OUT.

...BUT THERE IS, KAY. I-I KNOW YOU'RE STILL IN THERE. LET ME HELP YOU.

THOOM
TAKE HER!
NO! NINJAK, STOP!
TAKE THEM AND GET INTO THE CITY! I'LL DEAL WITH KAY.
YOU'RE INSANE!
PROBABLY, BUT YOU NEED TO GET THEM TO THE INFECTED.
MAYBE THEY CAN ABSORB THE NANITES. IT MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY.
GO!!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.
YOU HEARD THE MAN. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO.

UNGH!! JUST-JUST LOOK AT ME, KAY!
BLAM BLAM
I KNOW YOU'RE STILL IN THERE.
L-LET ME FIND YOU, KAY.
LET ME FIND YOU...

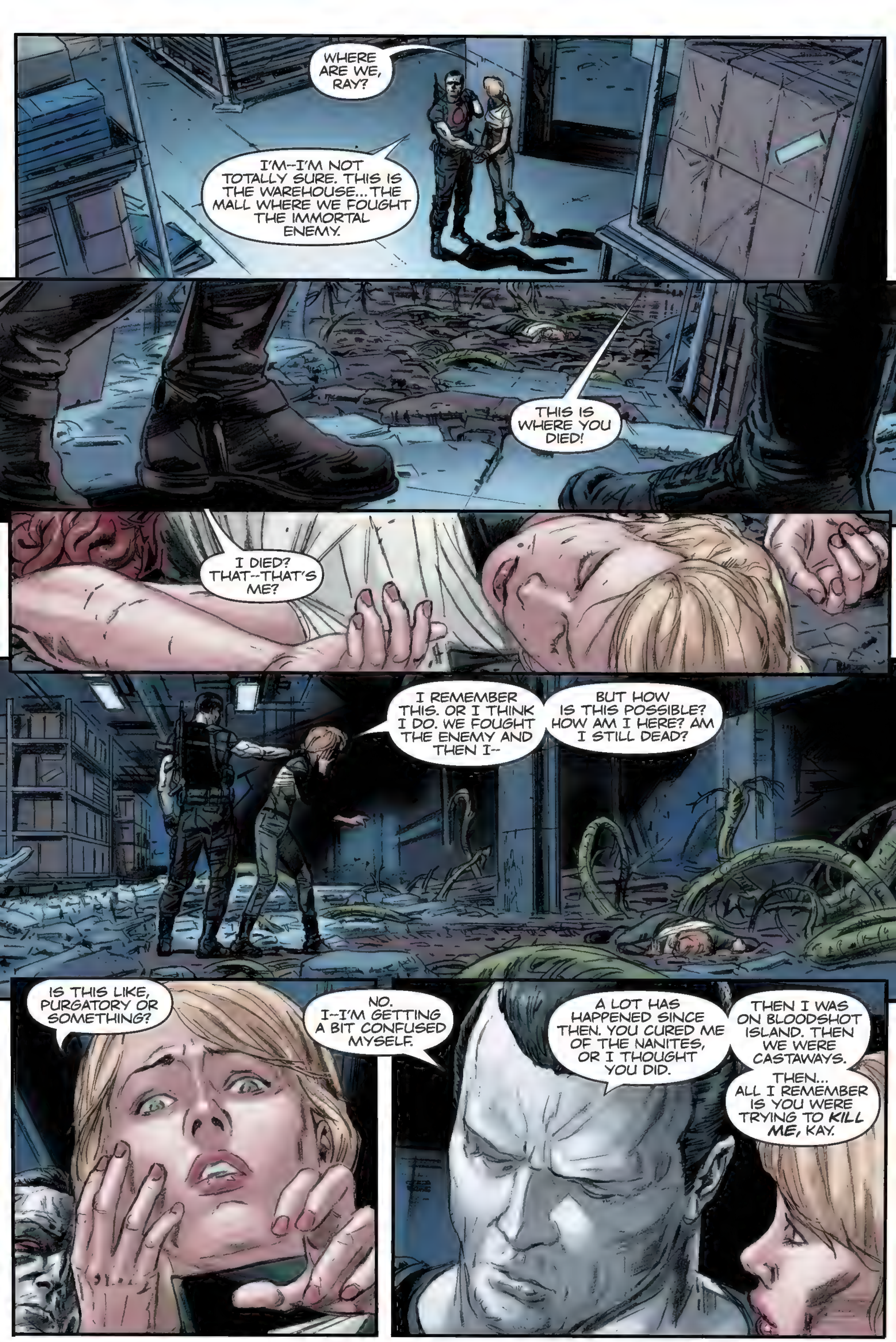
W--WHERE AM I?
BLOODSHOT?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE'RE BACK WHERE THIS ALL STARTED, KAY...
I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU HOME.

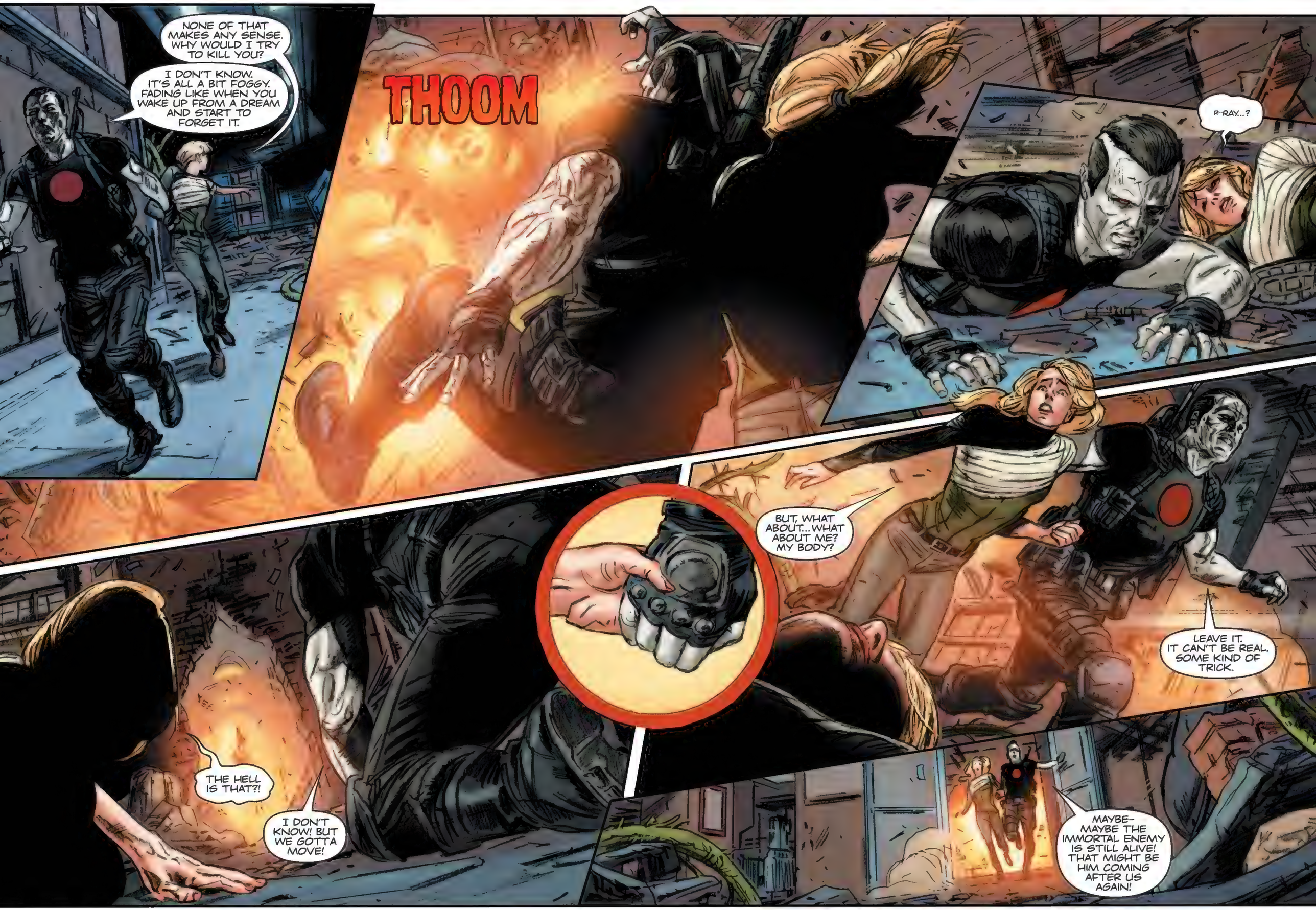
BLOOD SHOT U.S.A.

JEFF LEMIRE | DOUG BRAITHWAITE | BRIAN REBER

VALIANT

#3

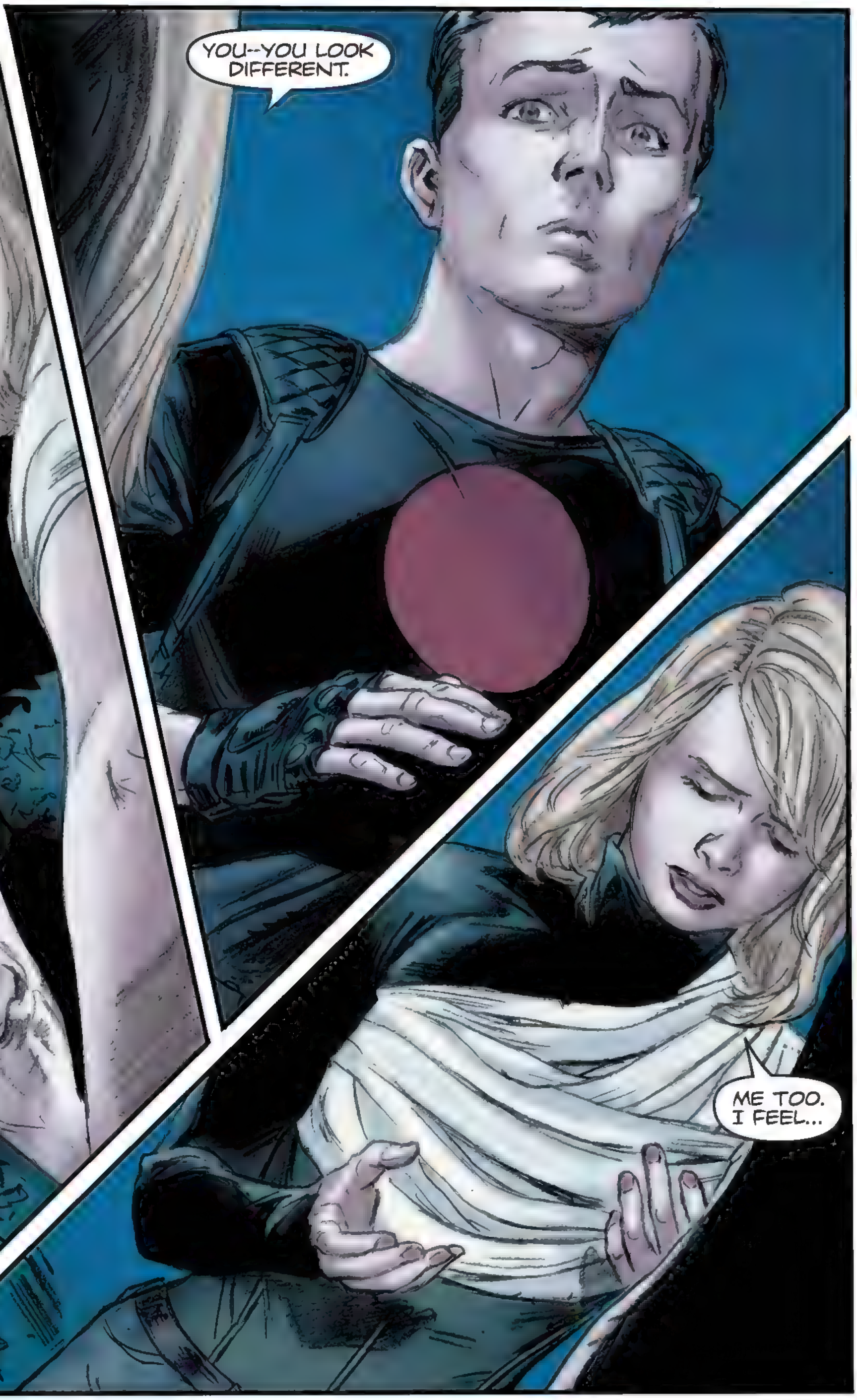

WHERE ARE WE, RAY?
I'M--I'M NOT TOTALLY SURE. THIS IS THE WAREHOUSE...THE MALL WHERE WE FOUGHT THE IMMORTAL ENEMY.
THIS IS WHERE YOU DIED!
I DIED? THAT--THAT'S ME?
I REMEMBER THIS. OR I THINK I DO. WE FOUGHT THE ENEMY AND THEN I--
BUT HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? HOW AM I HERE? AM I STILL DEAD?
IS THIS LIKE, PURGATORY OR SOMETHING?
NO. I--I'M GETTING A BIT CONFUSED MYSELF.
A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN. YOU CURED ME OF THE NANITES, OR I THOUGHT YOU DID.
THEN I WAS ON BLOODSHOT ISLAND. THEN WE WERE CASTAWAYS.
THEN... ALL I REMEMBER IS YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL ME, KAY.


NONE OF THAT MAKES ANY SENSE. WHY WOULD I TRY TO KILL YOU?
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S ALL A BIT FOGGY. FADING LIKE WHEN YOU WAKE UP FROM A DREAM AND START TO FORGET IT.
THOOM
R-RAY...?
BUT, WHAT ABOUT...WHAT ABOUT ME? MY BODY?
LEAVE IT. IT CAN'T BE REAL. SOME KIND OF TRICK.
THE HELL IS THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW! BUT WE GOTTA MOVE!
MAYBE- MAYBE THE IMMORTAL ENEMY IS STILL ALIVE! THAT MIGHT BE HIM COMING AFTER US AGAIN!

RAY, LOOK!
THE ENEMY?! BUT THEN--
WHO IS THAT?
SOMEONE BAD. LET'S GO.
BLAM
BLAM BLAM

I THINK WE LOST THEM. I THINK YOU KILLED WHOEVER IT WAS?

NO. CAN'T YOU FEEL IT? SOMETHING WEIRD PRESSING IN ON US.
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NOT DEAD. IT'S STILL COMING.
BLOODSHOT... RAY--
WHAT?


YOU--YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.
ME TOO. I FEEL...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

I DON'T KNOW. BUT WE GOTTA GO, KAY!

KRA-KOOM

THE BAD THING IS COMING!
RAY, I'M SCARED! I WANNA GO HOME!

ME TOO, KAY. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO!
DO YOU REMEMBER, KAY?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE WAY HOME?

THE MONSTER IS COMING!
KRENCH
RUN!!

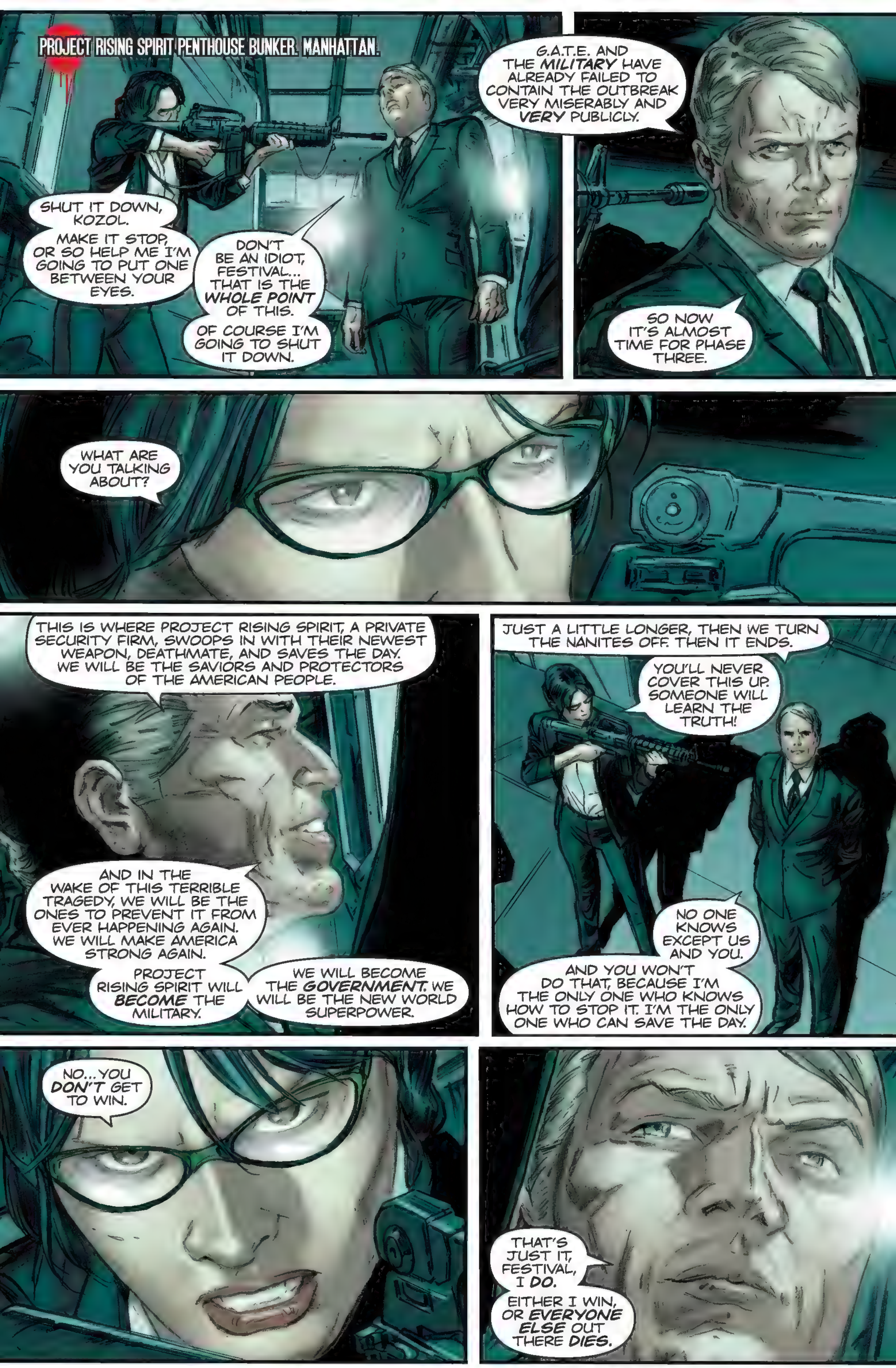
MANHATTAN.
HOSTILE FORCES GROWING. NON-LETHAL DEFENSE TACTICS FAILING.
DESTROY IT! KILL IT!!
THOOM

I LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE FOR FIVE MINUTES, AND ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
ABOUT TIME, NINJAK.
SORRY WE'RE A TOUCH LATE. TRAFFIC WAS BLOODY MURDER.

WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO CONTAIN THEM.
IF THIS THING GETS OUT OF NEW YORK...
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, CAPSHAW.

WHAT IS THE PLAN, TANK MAN?

THERE'S NO PLAN.
WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS AND THIS IS WAR.
SO WE DO WHAT WE WERE BUILT TO DO...
WE FIGHT!


PROJECT RISING SPIRIT PENTHOUSE BUNKER. MANHATTAN.
SHUT IT DOWN, KOZOL.
MAKE IT STOP, OR SO HELP ME I'M GOING TO PUT ONE BETWEEN YOUR EYES.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, FESTIVAL... THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT OF THIS.
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO SHUT IT DOWN.
G.A.T.E. AND THE MILITARY HAVE ALREADY FAILED TO CONTAIN THE OUTBREAK VERY MISERABLY AND VERY PUBLICLY.
SO NOW IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR PHASE THREE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS WHERE PROJECT RISING SPIRIT, A PRIVATE SECURITY FIRM, SWOOPS IN WITH THEIR NEWEST WEAPON, DEATHMATE, AND SAVES THE DAY. WE WILL BE THE SAVIORS AND PROTECTORS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
AND IN THE WAKE OF THIS TERRIBLE TRAGEDY, WE WILL BE THE ONES TO PREVENT IT FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN. WE WILL MAKE AMERICA STRONG AGAIN.
PROJECT RISING SPIRIT WILL BECOME THE MILITARY.
WE WILL BECOME THE GOVERNMENT. WE WILL BE THE NEW WORLD SUPERPOWER.
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, THEN WE TURN THE NANITES OFF. THEN IT ENDS.
YOU'LL NEVER COVER THIS UP. SOMEONE WILL LEARN THE TRUTH!
NO ONE KNOWS EXCEPT US AND YOU.
AND YOU WON'T DO THAT, BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO STOP IT. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THE DAY.
NO... YOU DON'T GET TO WIN.
THAT'S JUST IT, FESTIVAL, I DO.
EITHER I WIN, OR EVERYONE ELSE OUT THERE DIES.

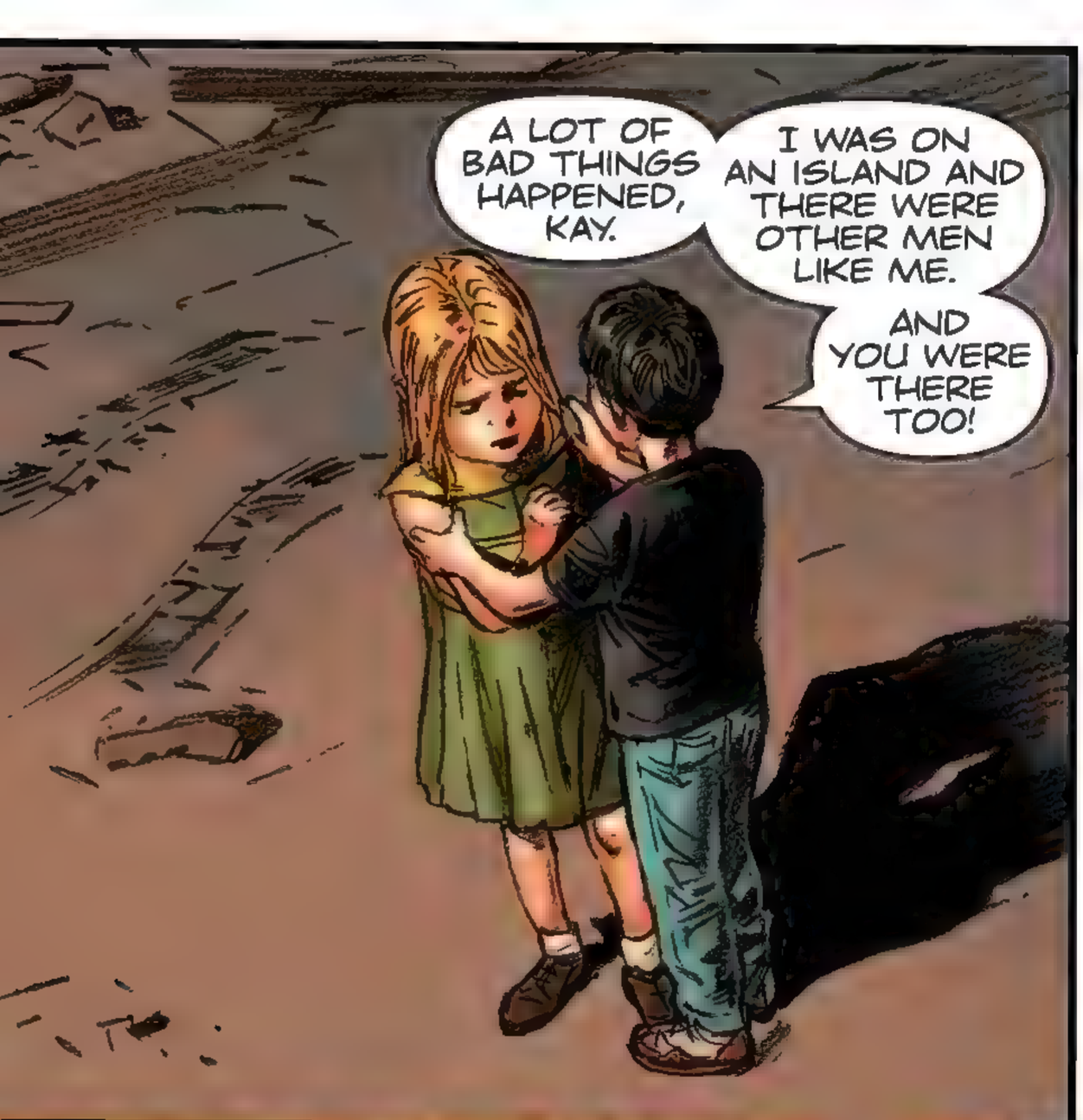
WE--WE SHOULDN'T STOP, KAY. THE MONSTER IS STILL COMING!
IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED, SILLY.
I DON'T?
OF COURSE NOT.
MONSTERS AREN'T REAL. THIS IS JUST MAKE-BELIEVE.
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH...
SEE! THERE'S OUR PRETEND CASTLE! LET'S GO, THE MONSTER LADY CAN'T GET US IN THERE.

THIS WAY! IT'S JUST LIKE IN MY FAVORITE STORYBOOK.
THE WHITE KNIGHT LIVES IN THERE, HE'LL HELP US!
WELL, WELL, WELL...AND WHERE DO YOU TWO LITTLE MISCREANTS THINK YOU'RE GOING?
WHO ARE YOU?!
I THINK I KNOW HIM.
INDEED YOU DO, LITTLE RAY.
I'M YOUR OLDEST CHUM--
--YOUR LITTLE BLOODY BUDDY!
I'M THE SQUIRT THAT BRINGS THE HURT.
AND IF YOU TWO WANT TO COME IN HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ANSWER A RIDDLE!

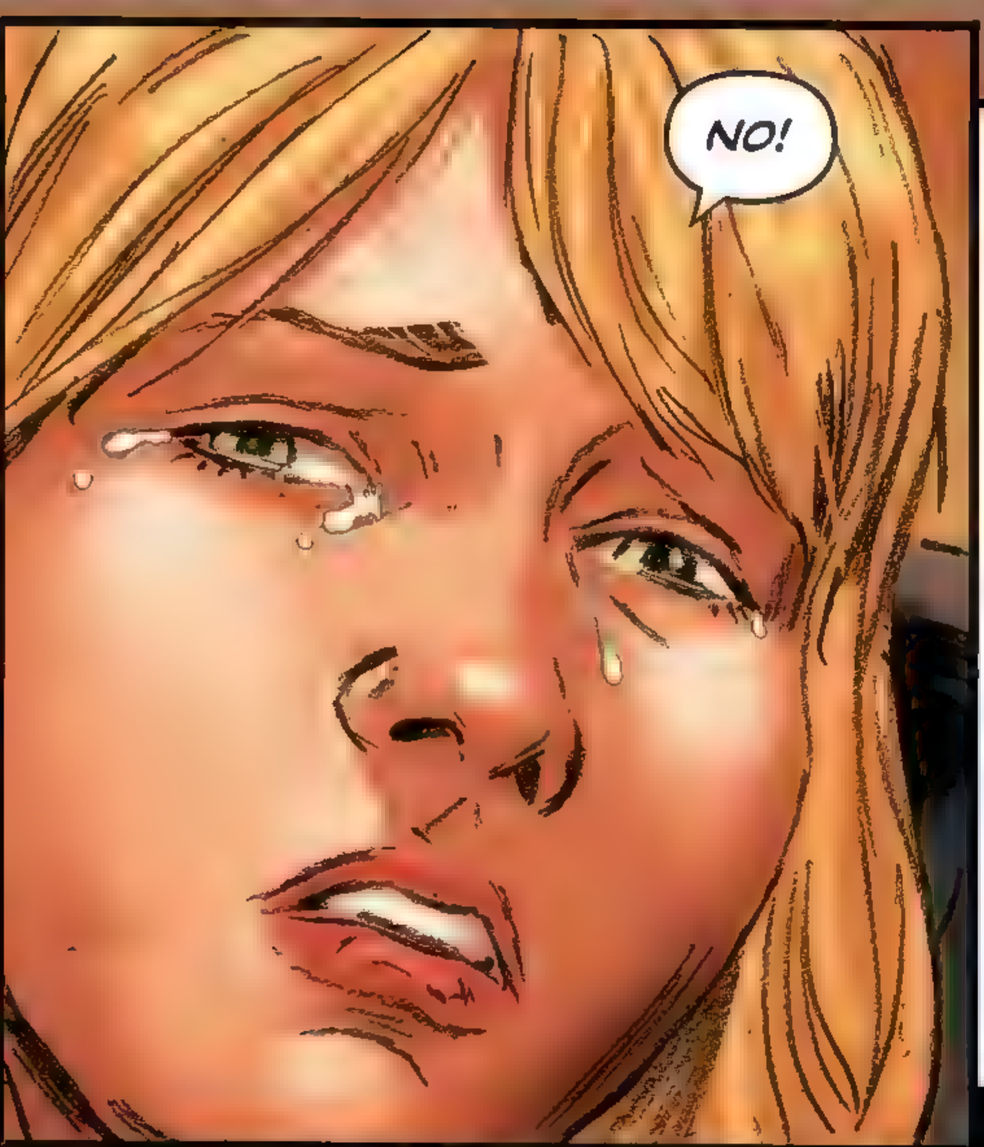
I THINK IT'S A TRICK! I DON'T TRUST HIM.
DON'T BE SUCH A WIMP, RAY. I'M REALLY GOOD AT RIDDLES.
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S YOUR RIDDLE?
OH, IT'S QUITE A DOOZY. YOU SURE YOU'RE READY, LITTLE LADY?
YES! HURRY UP!
OKAY, HERE GOES! THE RIDDLE IS...
WHAT IS DEATHMATE?
DEATHMATE?
WHAT KIND OF A RIDDLE IS THAT?!

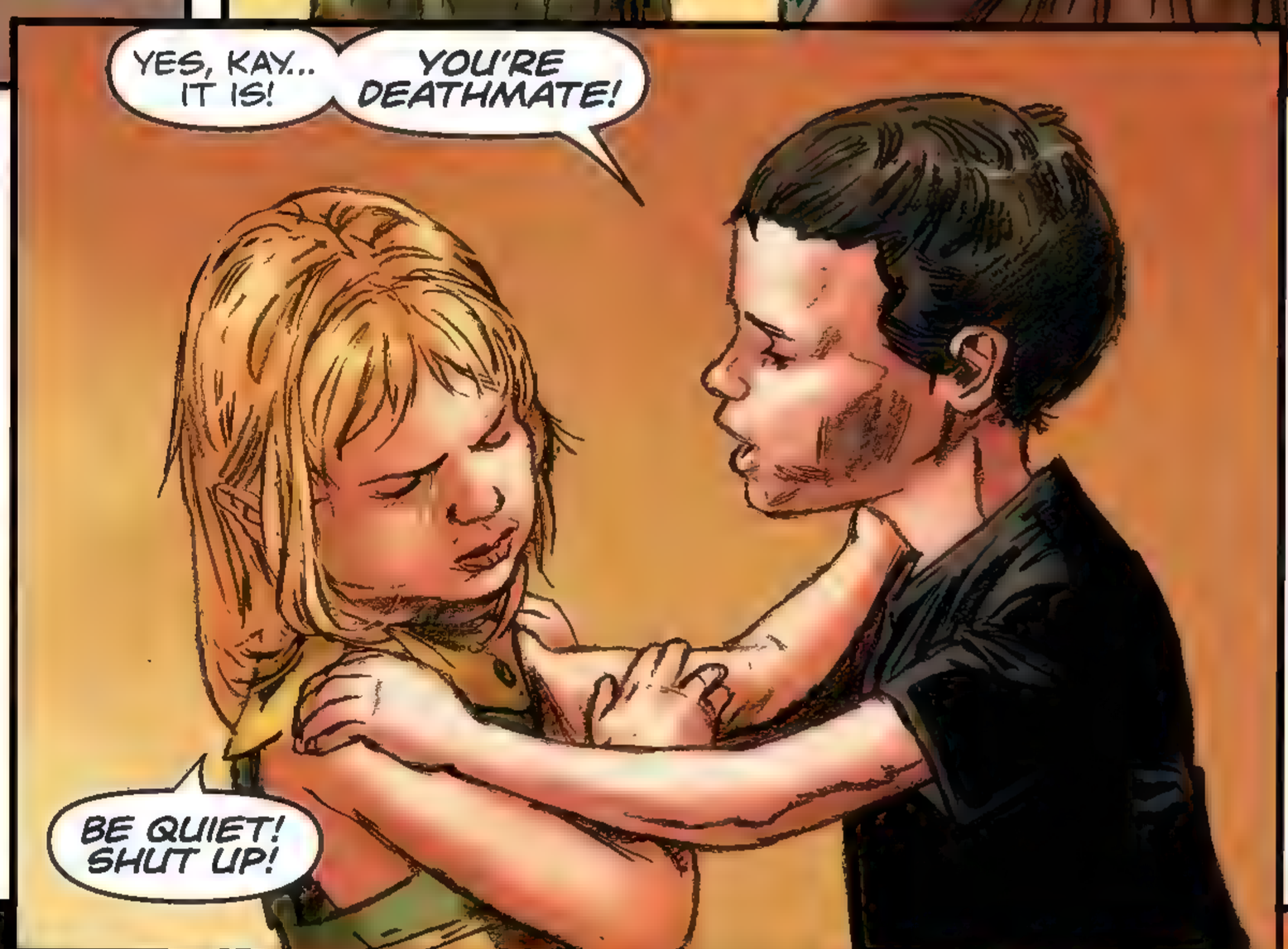
THE MONSTER IS COMING!!
LET US PASS!
NOT WITHOUT THE RIDDLE!
MOVE IT, SQUIRT!
HEY! NO FAIR!
SPLOOSH
IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU'LL NEVER GET HOME UNTIL YOU ANSWER THE RIDDLE!

WAIT, THIS ISN'T RIGHT?
WHERE'S THE CASTLE? WHERE'S THE WHITE KNIGHT?
LOOK!
WHO IS THAT? ARE THEY HURT?
I DON'T-- THEY LOOK FAMILIAR.
THEY DO?
YEAH. I THINK--
I REMEMBER THIS. I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.
OH!
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS US! I REMEMBER!
I REMEMBER NOW! I KNOW WHAT DEATHMATE IS!


A LOT OF BAD THINGS HAPPENED, KAY.
I WAS ON AN ISLAND AND THERE WERE OTHER MEN LIKE ME.
AND YOU WERE THERE TOO!

BUT IT WASN'T YOU.
THEY MADE YOU ALIVE AGAIN--
--AND THEY PUT ALL THESE LITTLE ROBOTS IN YOU, LIKE THEY DID TO ME.
THEY MADE YOU INTO THE MONSTER, KAY!


NO!

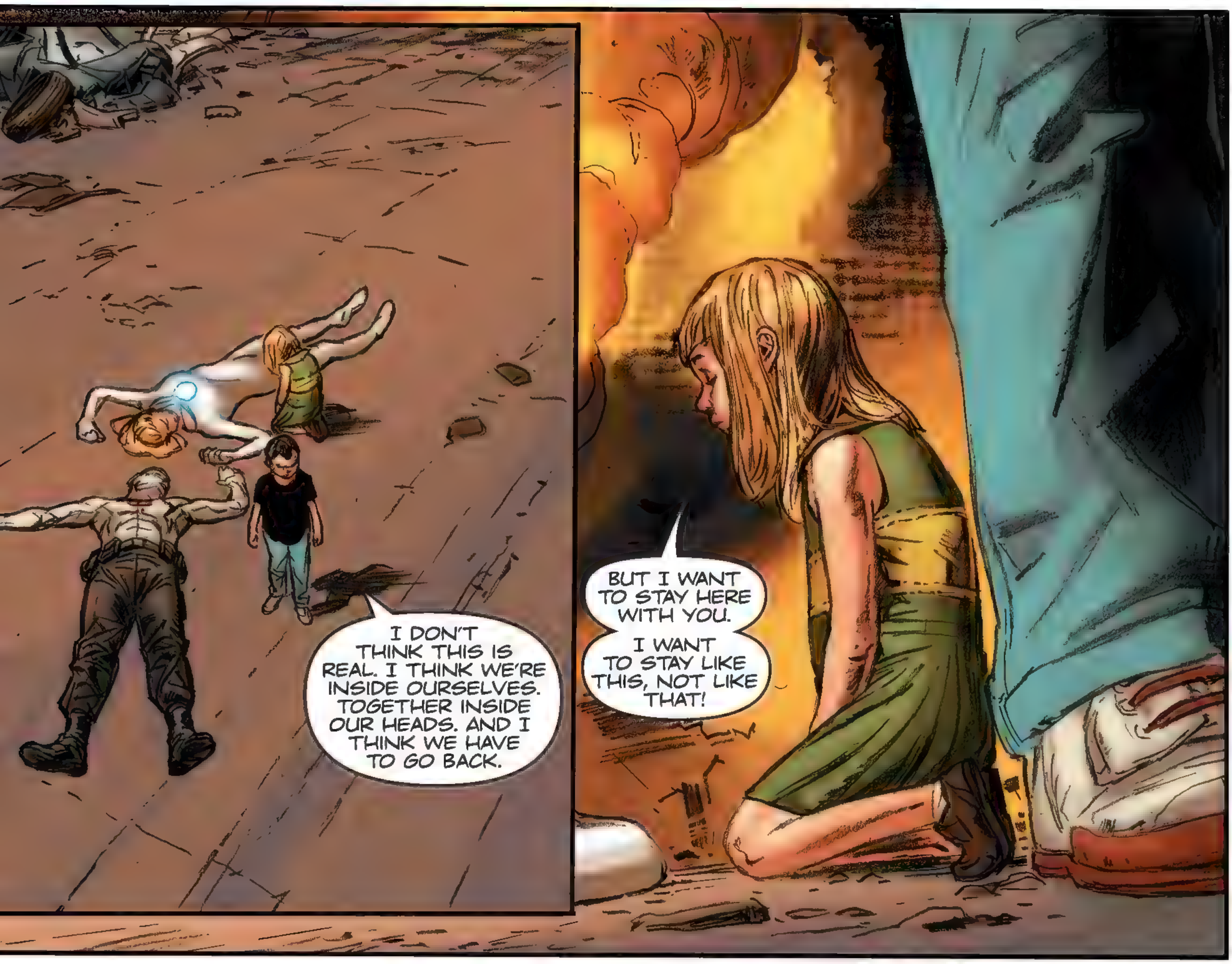

YES, KAY... IT IS!
YOU'RE DEATHMATE!
BE QUIET! SHUT UP!

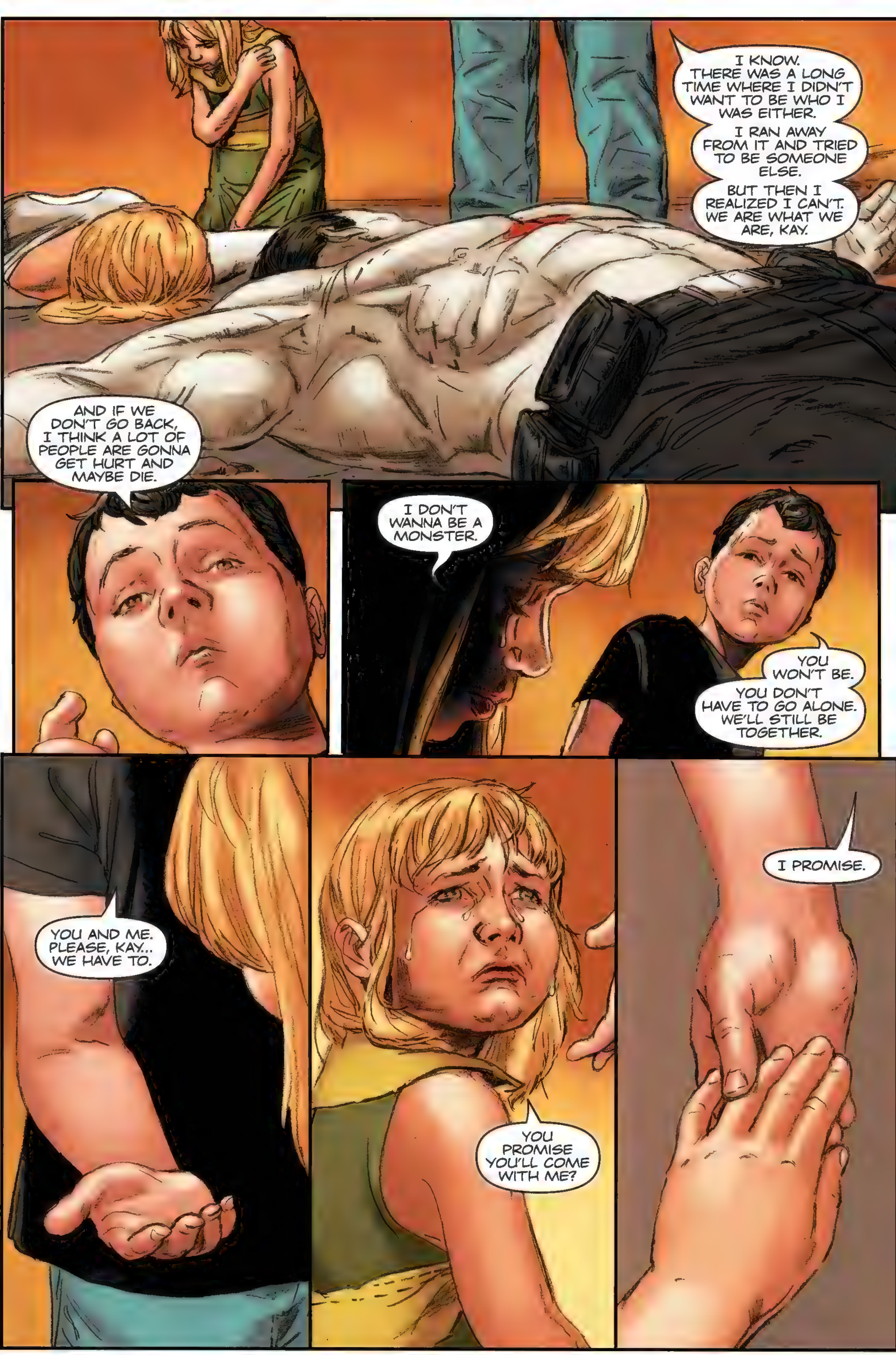
NO! I--I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THIS! I JUST WANT TO BE ME!

I KNOW, KAY. I KNOW YOU DO.
AND I KNOW IT'S SCARY. BUT I THINK YOU HAVE TO.

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE! WHY ARE WE HERE LIKE THIS?

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S--IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
I REMEMBER BEING WITH YOU. I REMEMBER USING ALL THE LITTLE ROBOTS IN MY BLOOD AND IN YOURS.
BUT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO TAKE THEM FROM YOU LIKE I DID BEFORE, I PUT EVERYTHING I HAD, EVERYTHING I AM INTO MINE AND MADE THEM MIX WITH YOURS. THAT'S HOW I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU.

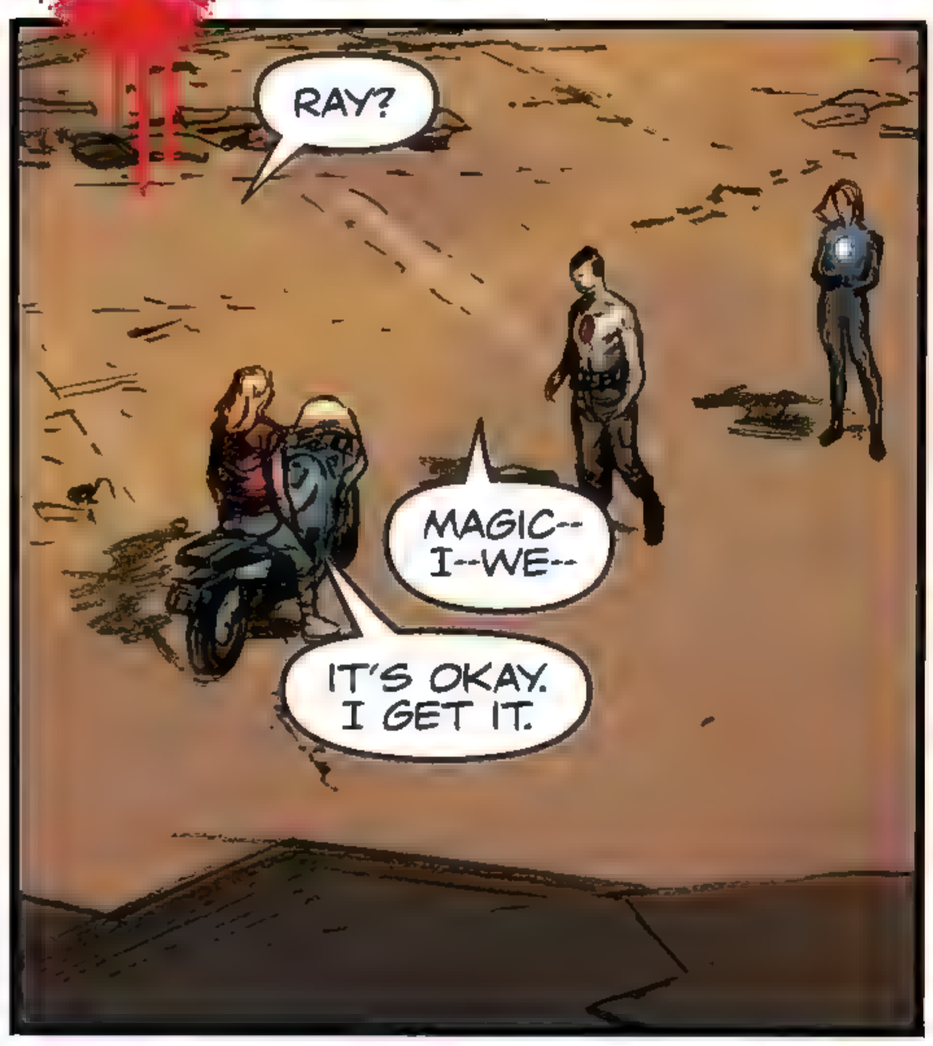

I DON'T THINK THIS IS REAL. I THINK WE'RE INSIDE OURSELVES. TOGETHER INSIDE OUR HEADS. AND I THINK WE HAVE TO GO BACK.
BUT I WANT TO STAY HERE WITH YOU.
I WANT TO STAY LIKE THIS, NOT LIKE THAT!


I KNOW. THERE WAS A LONG TIME WHERE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE WHO I WAS EITHER.
I RAN AWAY FROM IT AND TRIED TO BE SOMEONE ELSE.
BUT THEN I REALIZED I CAN'T. WE ARE WHAT WE ARE, KAY.
AND IF WE DON'T GO BACK, I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GONNA GET HURT AND MAYBE DIE.
I DON'T WANNA BE A MONSTER.
YOU WON'T BE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ALONE. WE'LL STILL BE TOGETHER.
YOU AND ME. PLEASE, KAY... WE HAVE TO.
YOU PROMISE YOU'LL COME WITH ME?
I PROMISE.

WE HAVE TO LET GO NOW, KAY.
I DON'T WANT TO.
WE HAVE TO.
IT'LL BE OKAY...

-GASP!-
I--I'M--
K--KAY?
KAY, ARE YOU--
I'M ME, RAY... I'M ME AGAIN.
RAY?

VALIANT
#4
BLOOD SHOT
U.S.A.
JEFF LEMIRE | DOUG BRAITHWAITE | BRIAN REBER



IT DOES MATTER.

NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THERE IS LIKE--LIKE A BLOODSHOT PLAGUE OR SOMETHING IN THE CITY. LIKE IN COLORADO, BUT NOW ***HUNDREDS OF THEM.***

I KNOW. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED. I THINK MAYBE KAY AND I CAN STOP IT.

THEN GO.

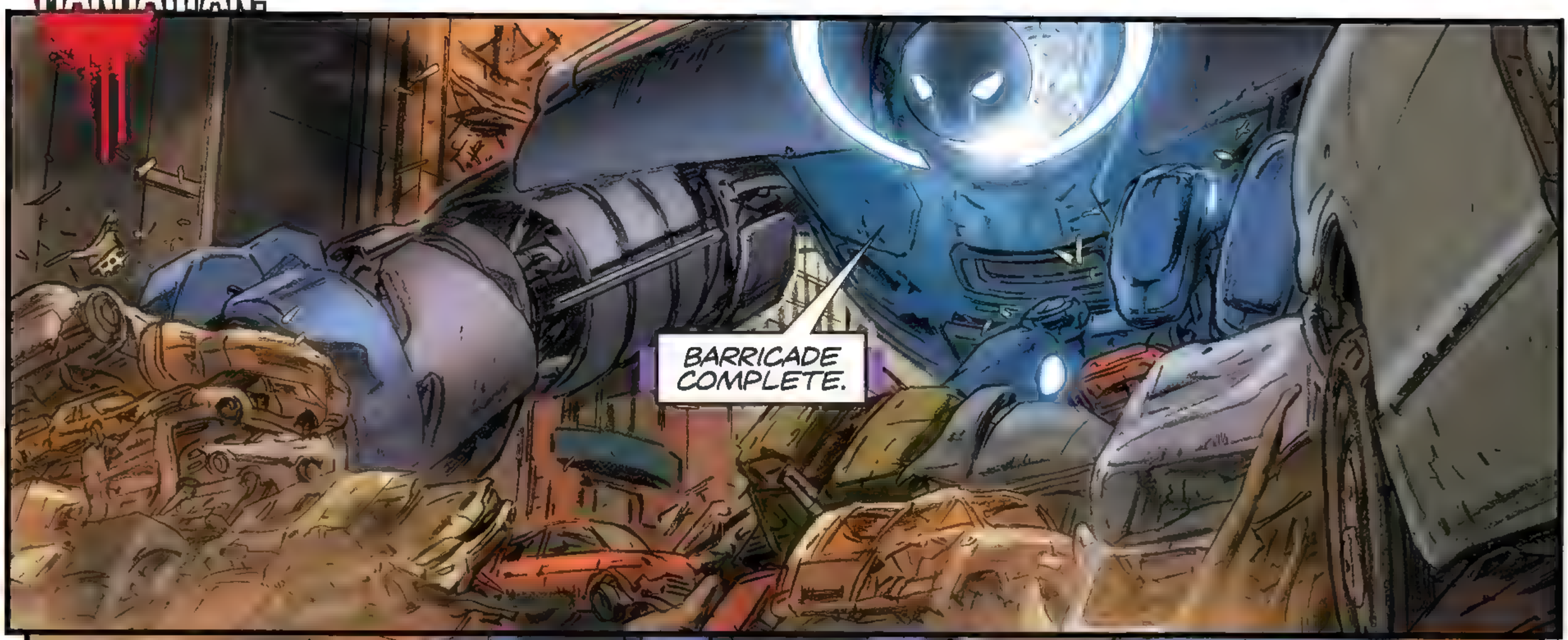
MAGIC, PLEASE...

NO, I MEAN IT.

YOU ***HAVE*** TO GO, RAY. I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO STOP IT IF YOU CAN.

AND IF SHE CAN HELP YOU...

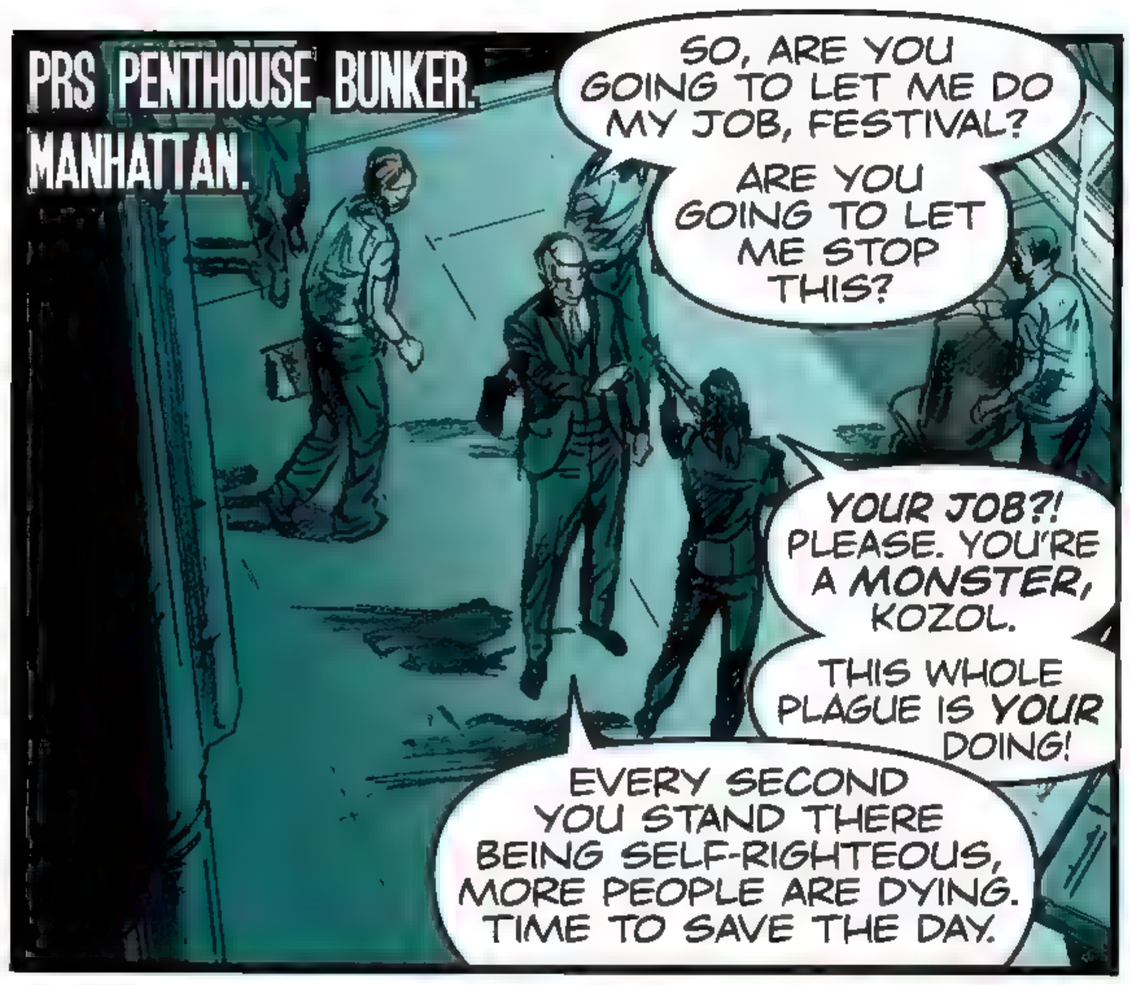
MAGIC, WHEN IT'S OVER, I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU. I PROMISE.
SURE.
I MEAN IT. IT'S YOU AND ME, REMEMBER? NO MATTER WHAT.
GO, RAY.
I AM COMING BACK.
...JUST GO.

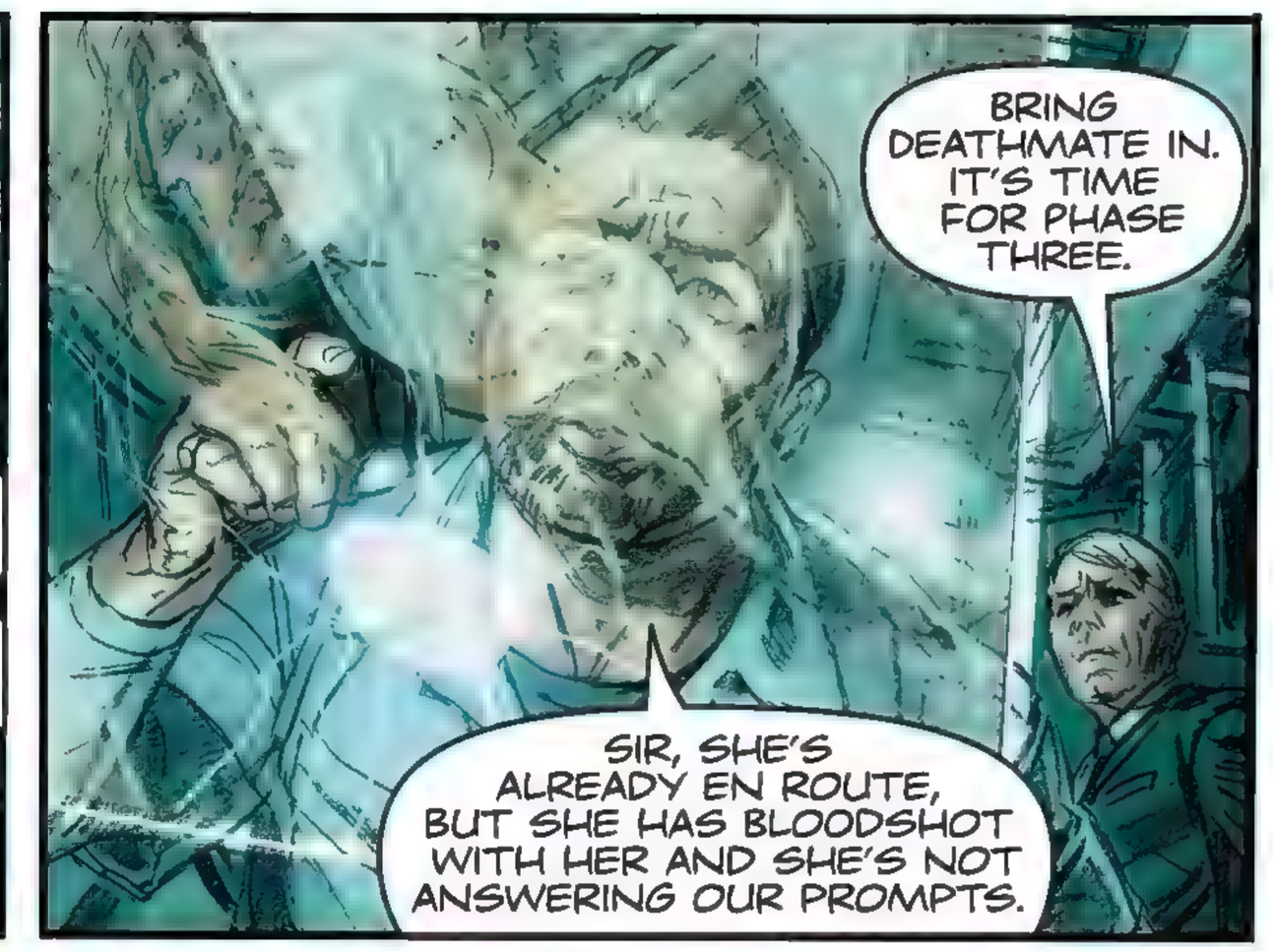

BARRICADE COMPLETE.

I'M LAYING DOWN SUPPRESSING FIRE FOR YOU, BIG GUY.
GOOD WORK, GIN-GR. OH, AND BY THE WAY GIN-GR'S A BIG GIRL, NOT A BIG GUY.
GRRRRR...

WE NEED TO TRY WHAT RAY DID!
WE NEED TO TRY ABSORBING THE NANITES FROM THESE POOR PEOPLE!

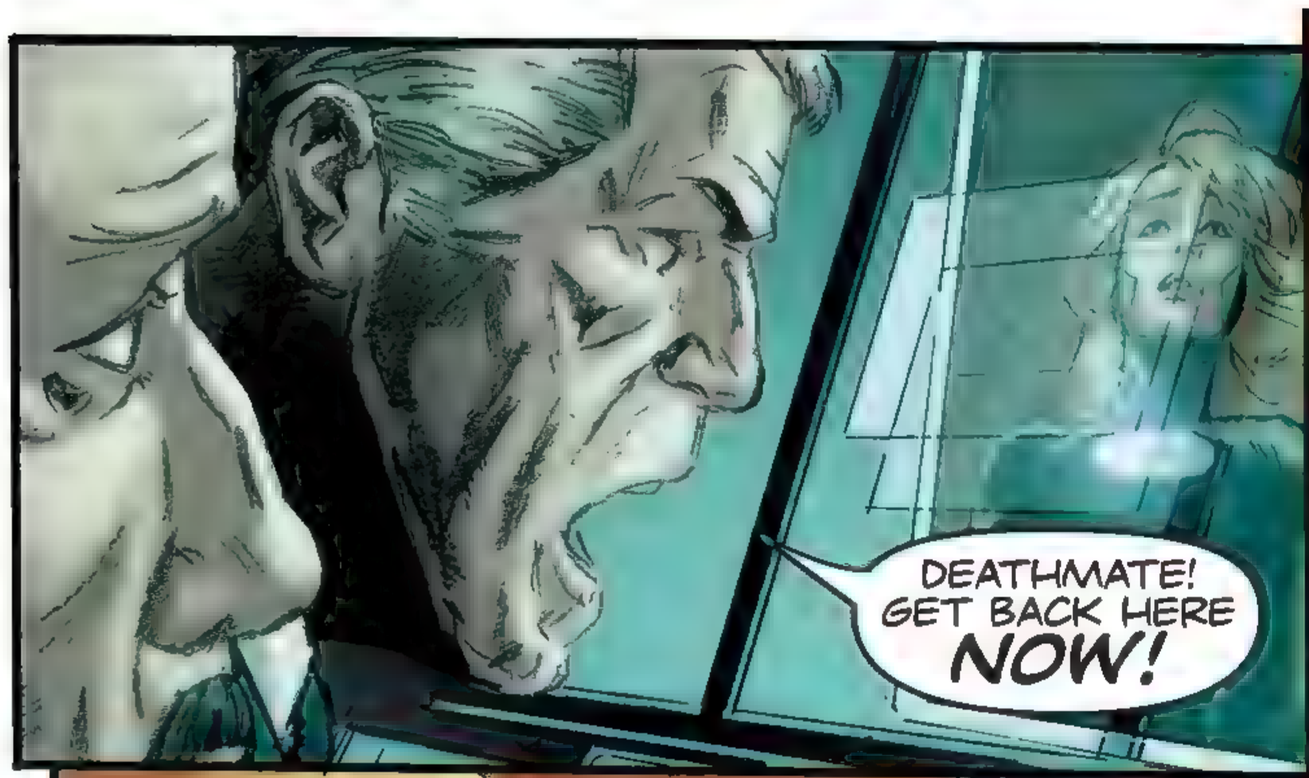
-NNGH!-
ST-- STARTING TO REALLY HURT!
TRYING TOO, BUT IT'S NOT WORKING FOR US!!
DA. WE CANNOT DO IT! WE CANNOT ABSORB!
QUIET MAN AND RAY ARE THE MOST RECENT BLOODSHOT MODELS.
MAYBE THEIR TECH IS MORE ADVANCED THAN OURS OR SOMETHING!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE NEED RAY MORE THAN EVER!
OUR BARRICADES WON'T CONTAIN THE MOB MUCH LONGER!

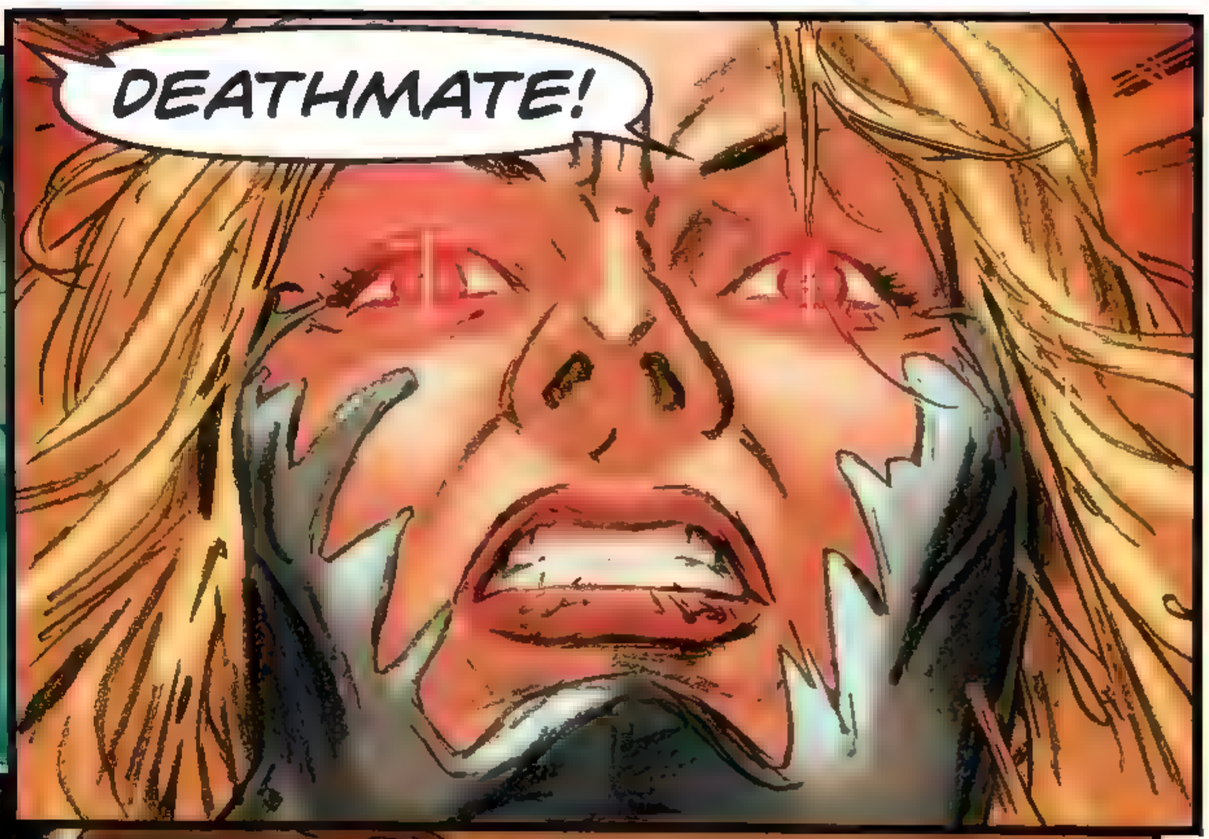

PRS PENTHOUSE BUNKER. MANHATTAN.
SO, ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME DO MY JOB, FESTIVAL?
ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME STOP THIS?
YOUR JOB?! PLEASE. YOU'RE A MONSTER, KOZOL.
THIS WHOLE PLAGUE IS YOUR DOING!
EVERY SECOND YOU STAND THERE BEING SELF-RIGHTEOUS, MORE PEOPLE ARE DYING. TIME TO SAVE THE DAY.


BRING DEATHMATE IN. IT'S TIME FOR PHASE THREE.
SIR, SHE'S ALREADY EN ROUTE, BUT SHE HAS BLOODSHOT WITH HER AND SHE'S NOT ANSWERING OUR PROMPTS.

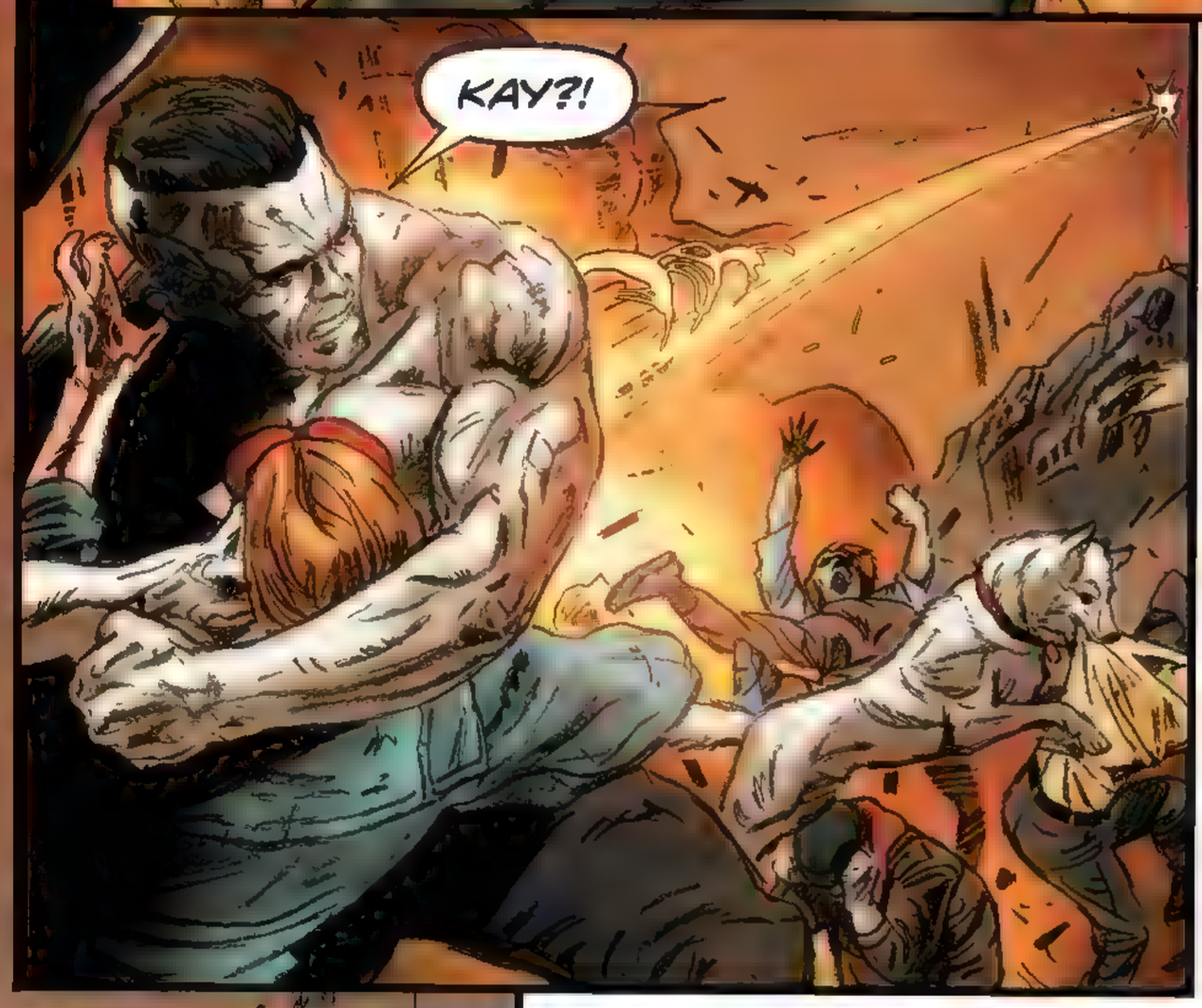
WHAT?
DEATHMATE, COME IN! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
RAY! ABOUT TIME. A HAND HERE?!

LIVEWIRE! STOP!
GRRRAHH!!!
DEATHMATE! COME IN! DEATHMATE, THESE ARE NOT YOUR ORDERS!!
STOP!
YOU HELPED WAKE ME UP ONCE, NOW LET ME HELP YOU!
DEATHMATE! RETURN TO BASE. THAT IS AN ORDER!
TH--THANK GOD.
BLOODSHOT?!
IS--IS THAT KAY McHENRY?!


DEATHMATE! GET BACK HERE NOW!


DEATHMATE!

THOOM


KAY?!

THOOM

CHOOM CHOOM
ARRGH!!
AHHHH!!
CHOOM CHOOM
DEATHMATE! STOP THIS!!
STOP! THAT IS AN ORDER!
NO MORE ORDERS.
WH--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I'M FREE.

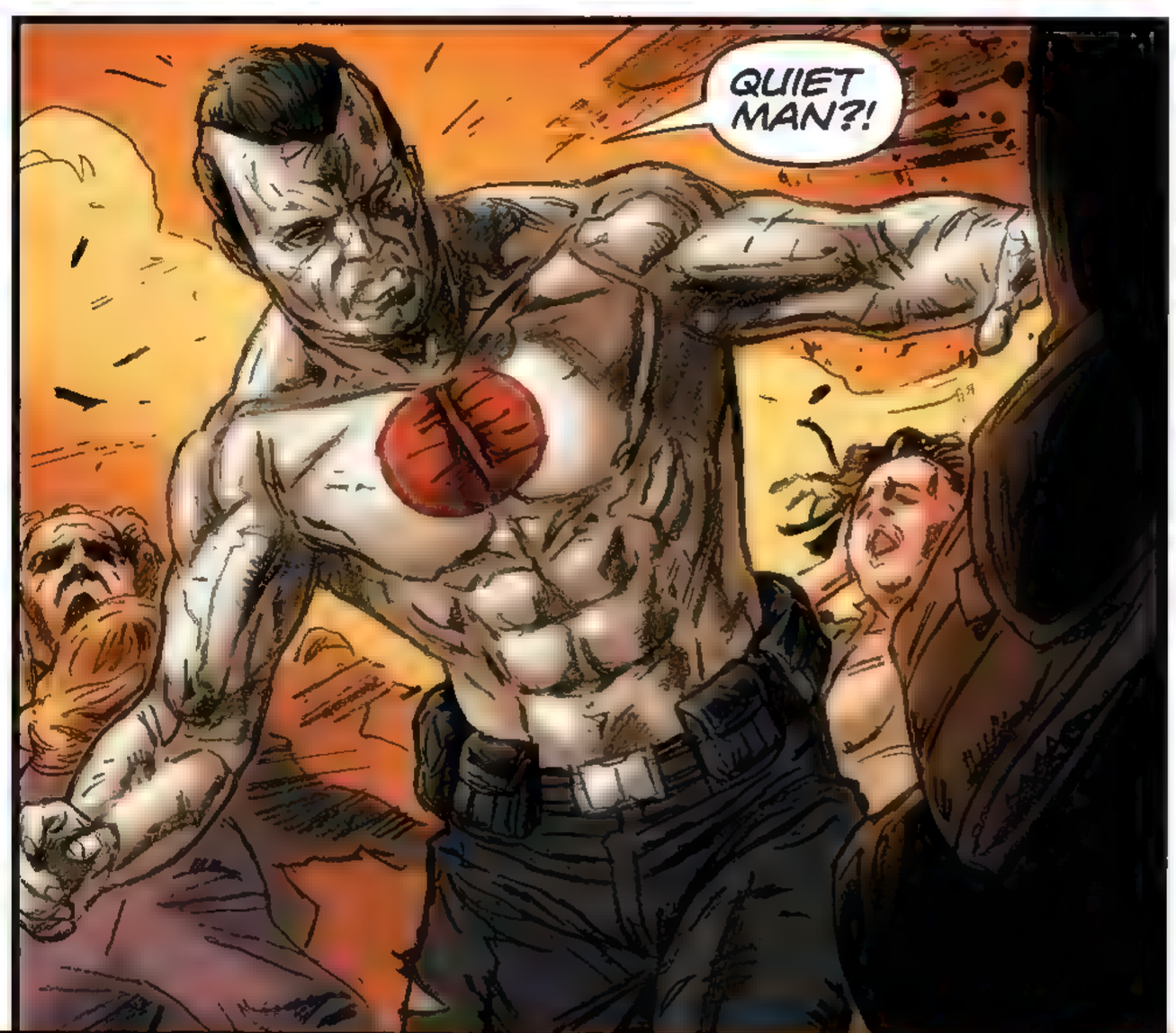
KRKKT
WHO ARE YOU?
THUMP
F--FBI. FESTIVAL. I'M NOT WITH THEM. I WAS-- I WAS TRYING TO STOP THIS.
HOW? HOW DO WE STOP IT?
I--I DON'T KNOW. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STOP IT.
KOZOL SAID YOU KNEW! HE SAID YOU WOULD BE PHASE THREE.
PHASE THREE?
BUT I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS!

THE BARRICADES! THE BARRICADES AREN'T HOLDING!!
CAPSHAW! WE'RE LOSING DOWN HERE! IF YOU HAVE AN ACE UP YOUR SLEEVE NOW IS THE TIME!
OUR TECHS ARE TRYING TO RIG A MASSIVE E.M.P. BUT WE STILL NEED TIME, NINJAK!
MAYBE AN HOUR OR TWO. AND EVEN IF WE GET IT THERE, THERE'S NO TELLING IF IT WILL WORK!!
AN HOUR OR TWO?! NOT HAPPENING!
THIS IS IT! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

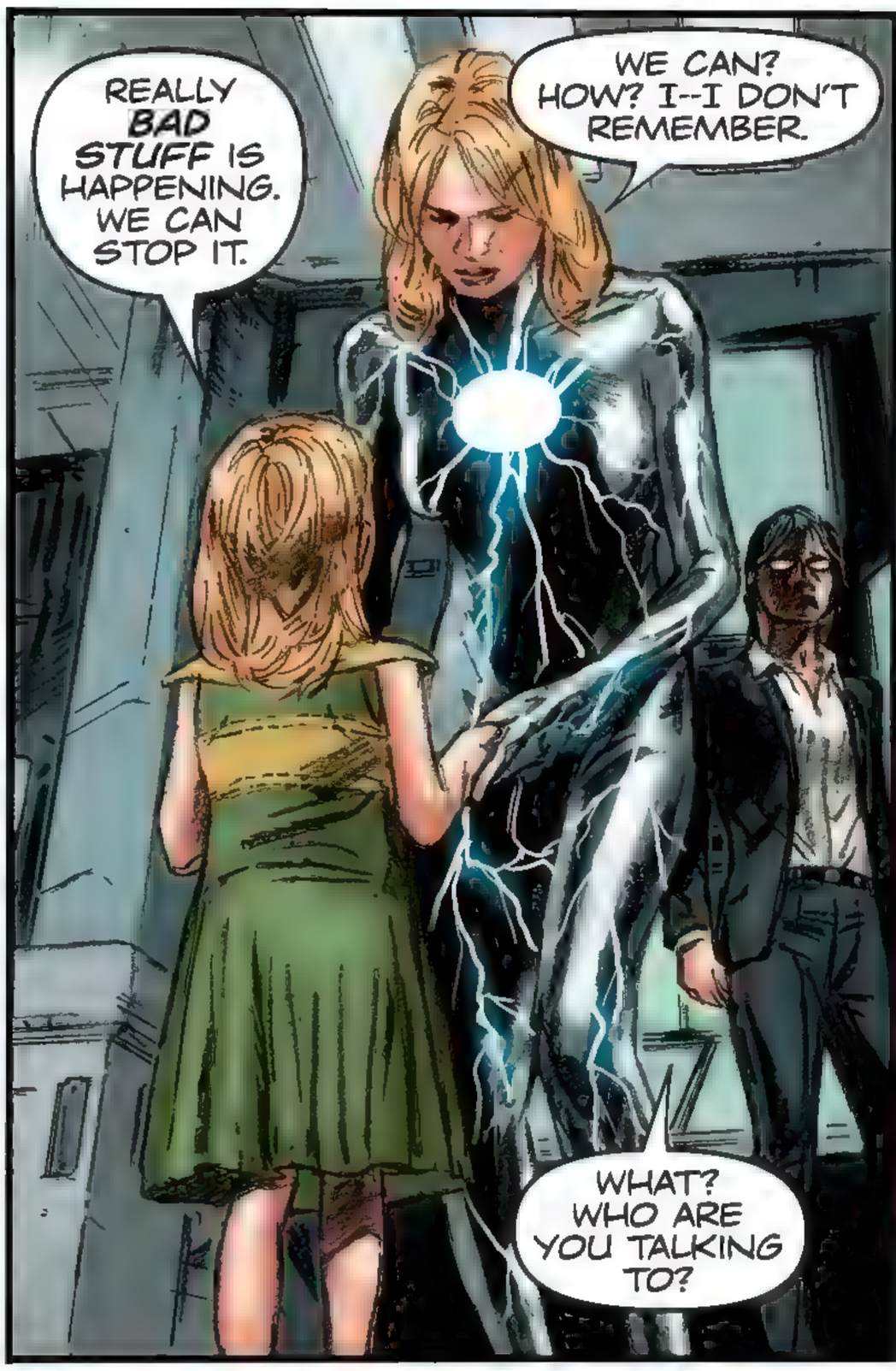
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?!
ARE YOU TELLING ME KOZOL WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD STOP THIS!?
ISN'T IT PROGRAMMED INTO YOU OR SOMETHING?!
I-- I REMEMBER CERTAIN THINGS, BUT MOST OF IT--
--ALL THE PROGRAMMING WAS BROKEN.
YOU MUST REMEMBER! YOU MUST KNOW!
I DON'T!
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
YES, YOU DO.
WE'RE REALLY GOOD AT RIDDLES.
WE CAN FIGURE IT OUT.

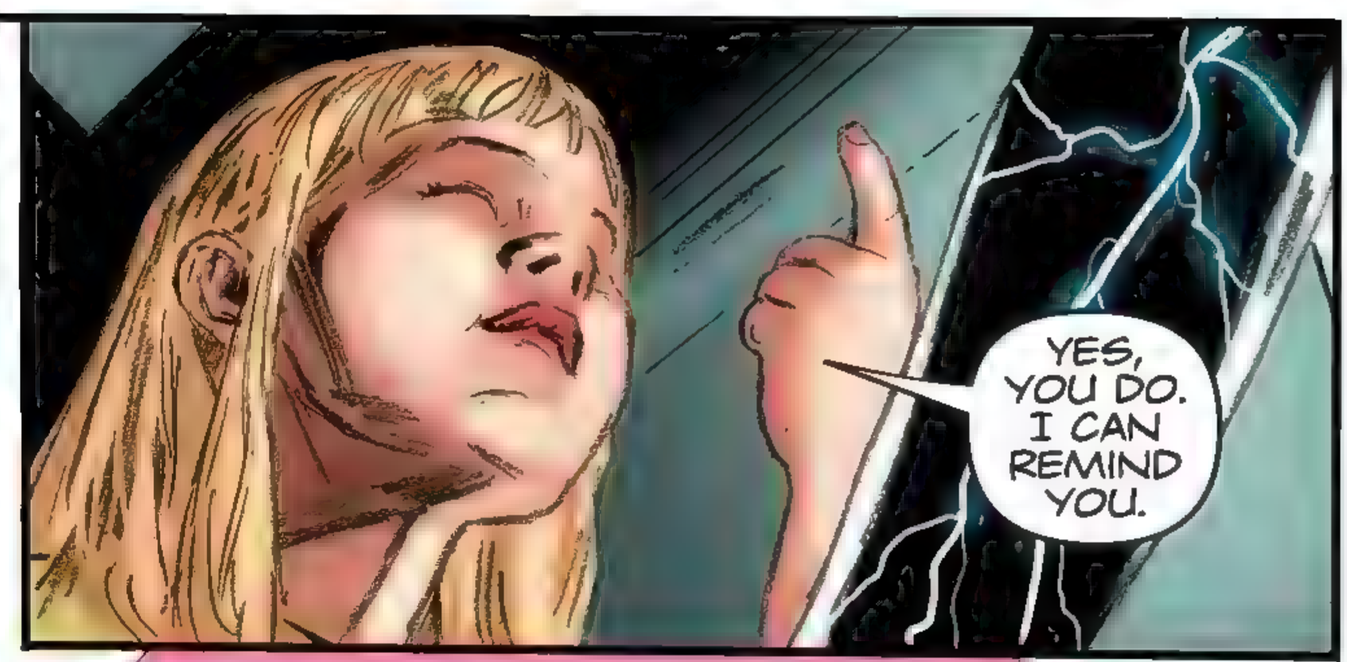
WE'RE TRYING TO HOLD THEM OFF, BUT HOW MANY MORE CAN YOU TWO TURN BACK TO NORMAL?!
I--I DON'T KNOW. NOT MANY.
C--CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE!

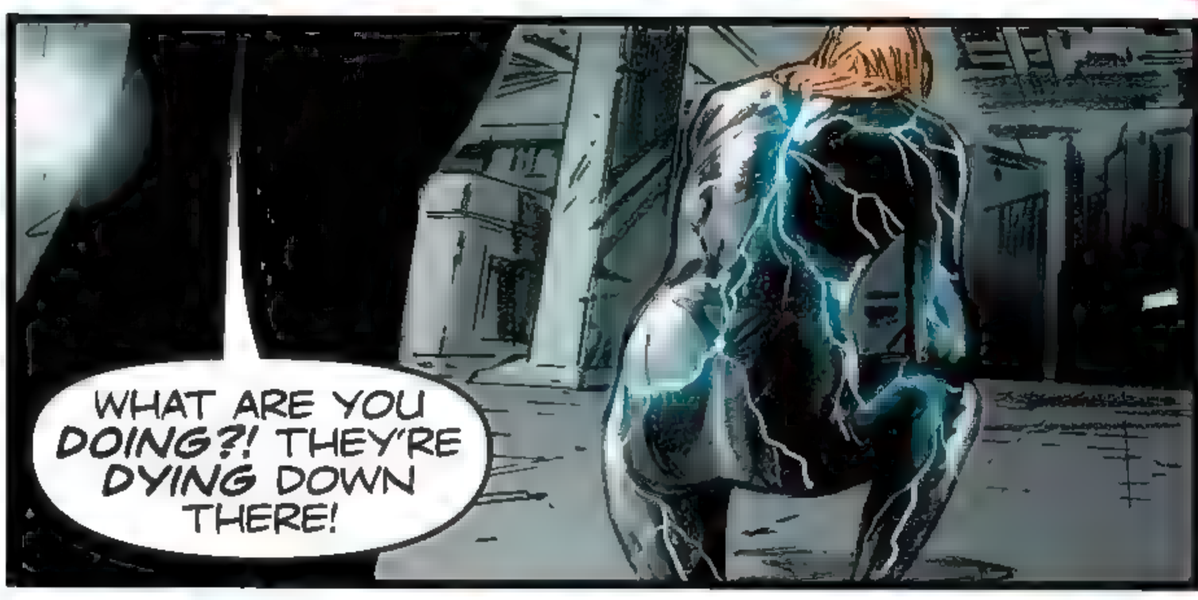
T--TOO MANY


QUIET MAN?!

GAAARRGHHH!!!


REALLY BAD STUFF IS HAPPENING. WE CAN STOP IT.
WE CAN? HOW? I--I DON'T REMEMBER.
WHAT? WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?


YES, YOU DO. I CAN REMIND YOU.


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THEY'RE DYING DOWN THERE!

OH. OF COURSE.

SHOOOOM
HEY!

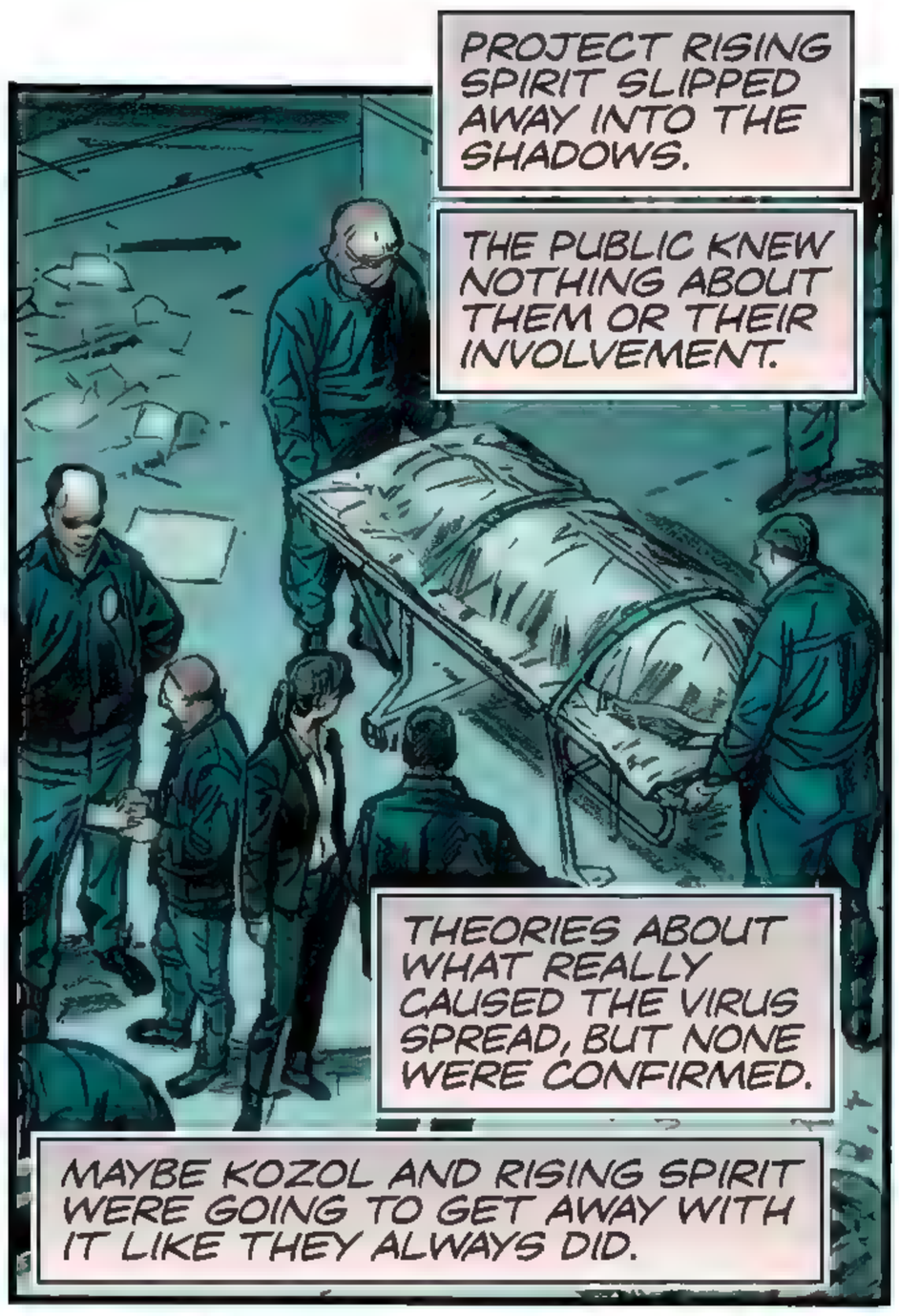
HE-- HE'S GONE.
WE'RE ALL DEAD!
NINJAK!
YOUR TEAM HAS LOST, CAPSHAW!
NO!
WE ARE OUT OF TIME! I'M SENDING IN THE AIR FORCE, WE NEED TO STERILIZE THE AREA. IF THIS THING GETS LOOSE...
IT'S NO USE!
QUIET MAN'S ALREADY DEAD!
THIS IS FUBAR, MAN!!
NO! LOOK!

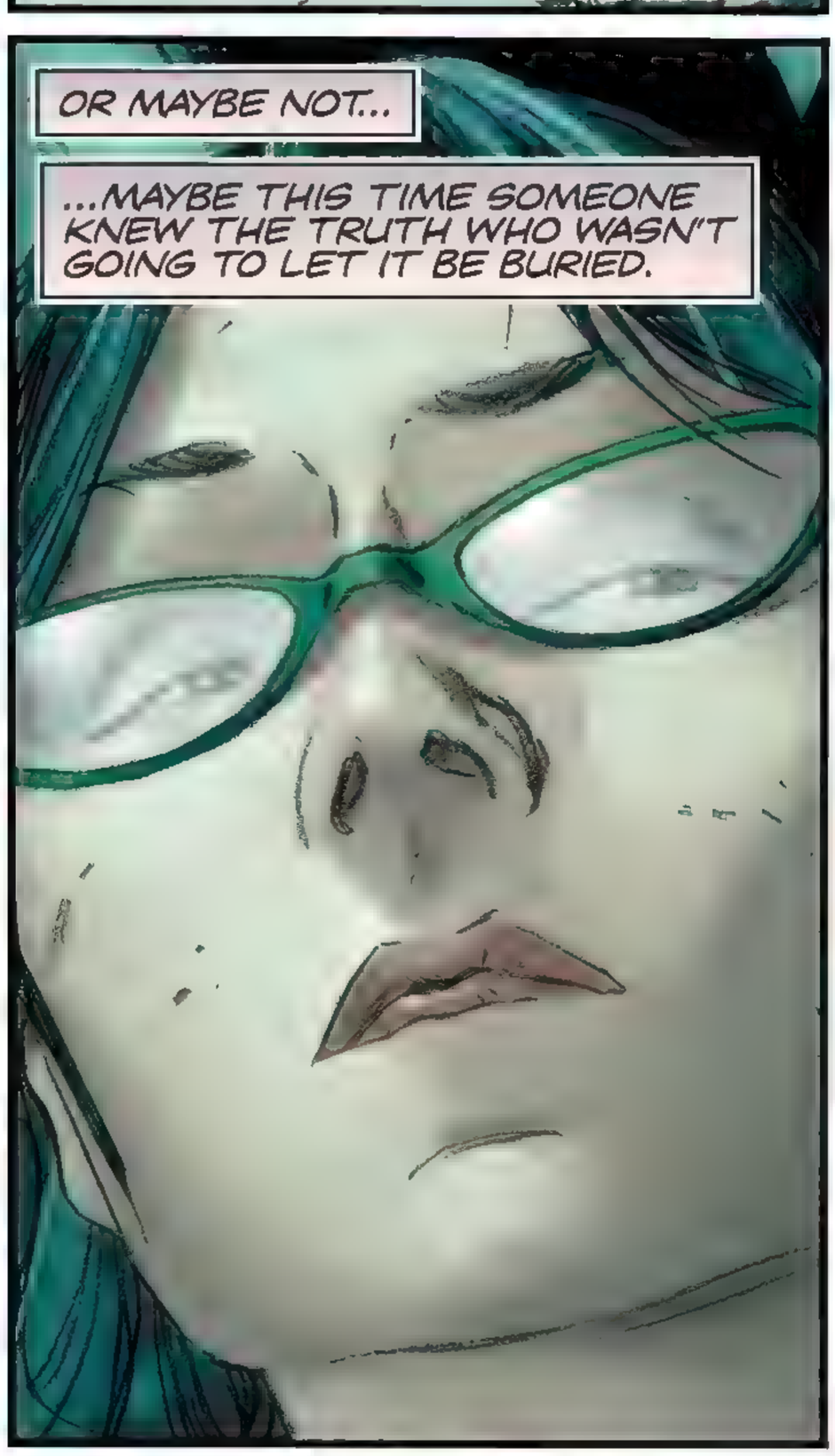
IT'S HER! SHE'S BACK!
KAY?! WHAT ARE YOU--?!
YOU HAVE TO SHOW ME HOW, RAY.
WHAT?!
YOU SAID YOU'D STAY WITH ME.
YOU SAID IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
NOW I NEED YOU TO SHOW ME HOW TO DO IT...
...HOW DO I TAKE THE NANITES BACK, RAY?
YOU--YOU JUST LET THEM COME TO YOU, KAY. JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES. YOU CAN FEEL THEM OUT THERE.
YES...THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.
IN THE AIR. IN ALL THOSE PEOPLE. IN US. SO MANY OF THEM.
THERE'S TOO MANY, KAY. IT WILL KILL YOU!
NO, NOT ME...

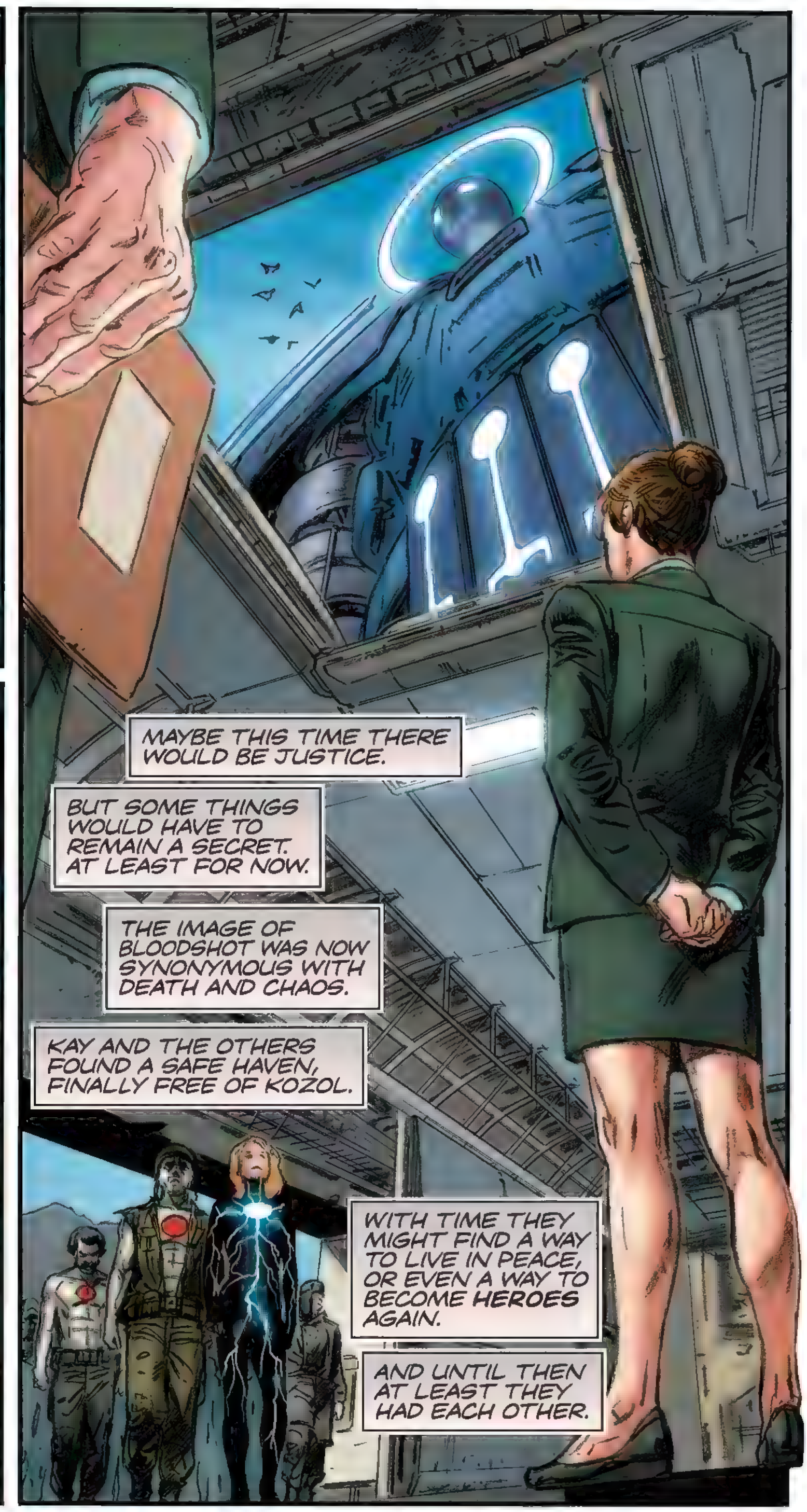
KAY!

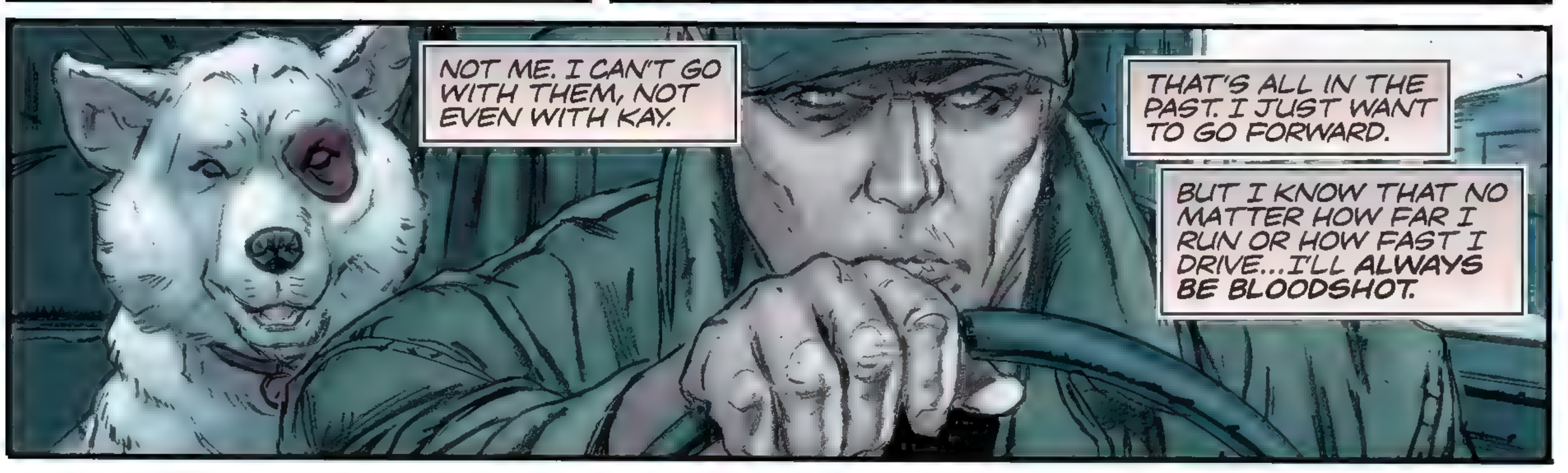
SEEING KAY DO WHAT SHE DID WAS ONE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE THINGS I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.

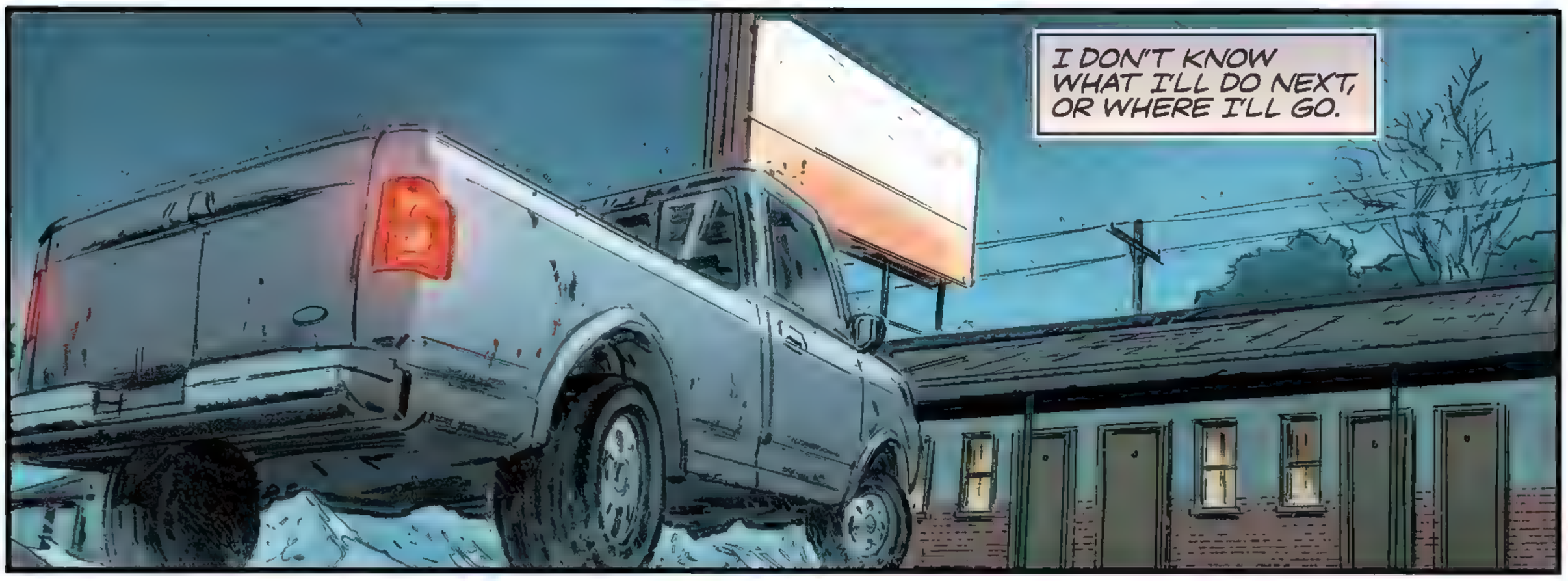
BUT AS BRIGHT AS IT WAS, IT ONLY MADE EVERYTHING SEEM THAT MUCH DARKER WHEN IT WAS FINALLY OVER.
THE MESS COULD BE CLEANED UP. THE CITY COULD BE REPAIRED.
BUT WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS GOING TO HAUNT THIS CITY, THIS COUNTRY--
--AND ALL THESE POOR PEOPLE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
AND NOW THEY ALL KNEW WHAT I KNEW. THEY ALL KNEW THE HORROR OF BLOODSHOT.
AND I NOW KNOW THAT BLOODSHOT WASN'T JUST ME. IT WAS A LEGACY OF PAIN AND VIOLENCE...
...AND YES EVEN OF HEROISM, THAT STRETCHES BACK THROUGH THE SECRET HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY.
WE TOOK QUIET MAN TO A PLACE WHERE WE KNEW HE COULD FINALLY BE ALONE. WHERE HE COULD FINALLY ENJOY THE SILENCE.
AND WE SAID GOODBYE.


PROJECT RISING SPIRIT SLIPPED AWAY INTO THE SHADOWS.
THE PUBLIC KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THEM OR THEIR INVOLVEMENT.
THEORIES ABOUT WHAT REALLY CAUSED THE VIRUS SPREAD, BUT NONE WERE CONFIRMED.
MAYBE KOZOL AND RISING SPIRIT WERE GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT LIKE THEY ALWAYS DID.

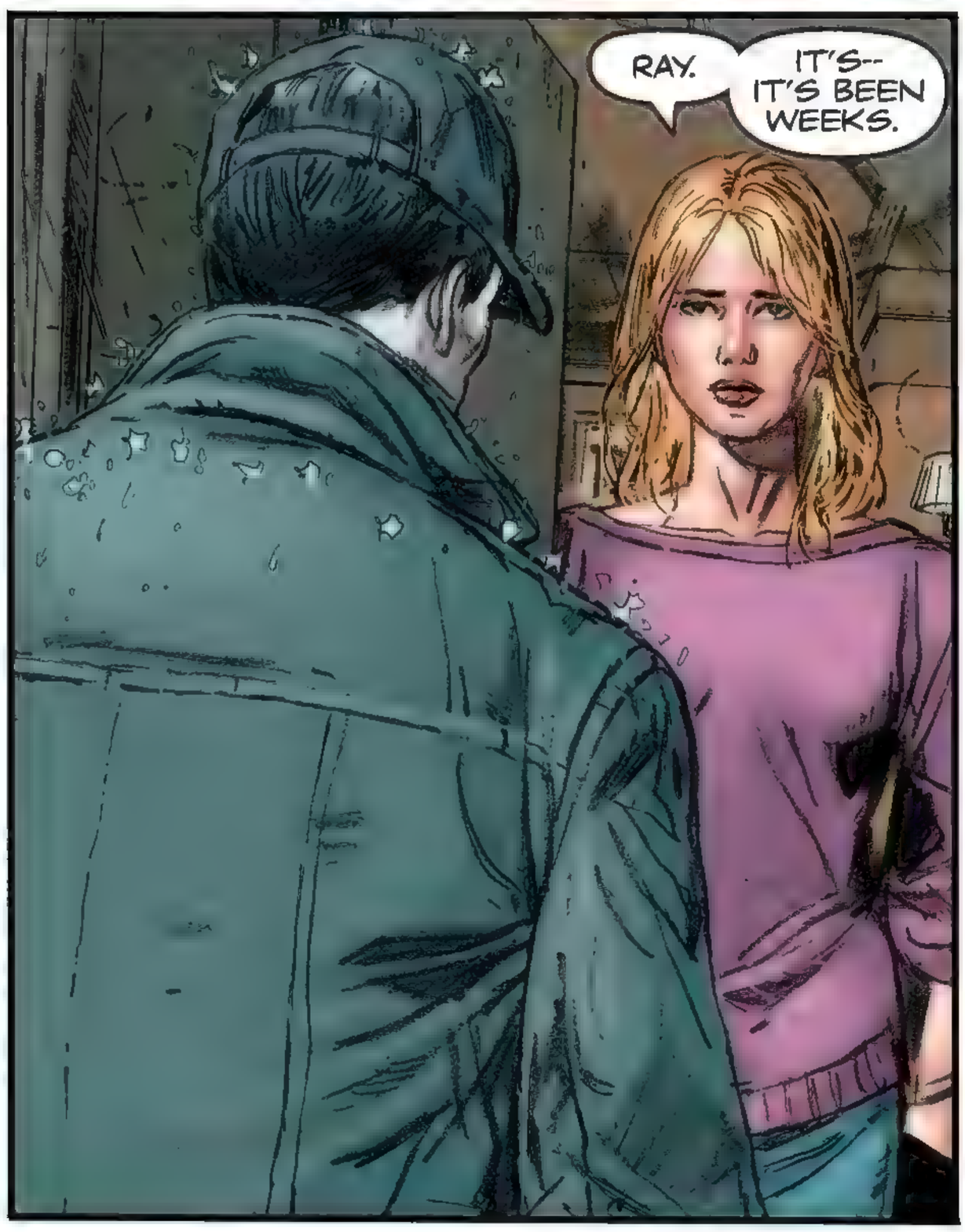

OR MAYBE NOT...
...MAYBE THIS TIME SOMEONE KNEW THE TRUTH WHO WASN'T GOING TO LET IT BE BURIED.


MAYBE THIS TIME THERE WOULD BE JUSTICE.
BUT SOME THINGS WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN A SECRET. AT LEAST FOR NOW.
THE IMAGE OF BLOODSHOT WAS NOW SYNONYMOUS WITH DEATH AND CHAOS.
KAY AND THE OTHERS FOUND A SAFE HAVEN, FINALLY FREE OF KOZOL.
WITH TIME THEY MIGHT FIND A WAY TO LIVE IN PEACE, OR EVEN A WAY TO BECOME HEROES AGAIN.
AND UNTIL THEN AT LEAST THEY HAD EACH OTHER.

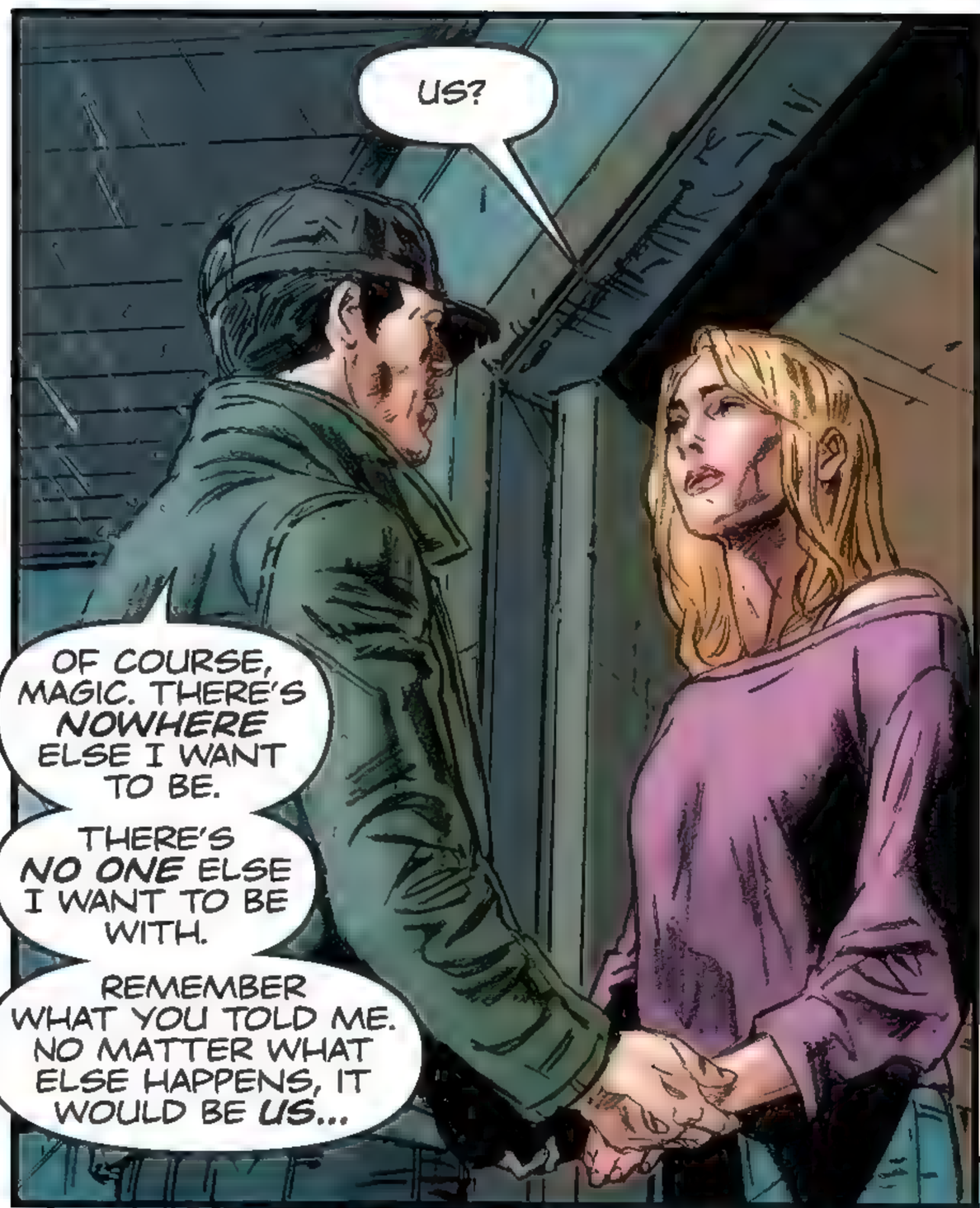

NOT ME. I CAN'T GO WITH THEM, NOT EVEN WITH KAY.
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST. I JUST WANT TO GO FORWARD.
BUT I KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW FAR I RUN OR HOW FAST I DRIVE...I'LL ALWAYS BE BLOODSHOT.

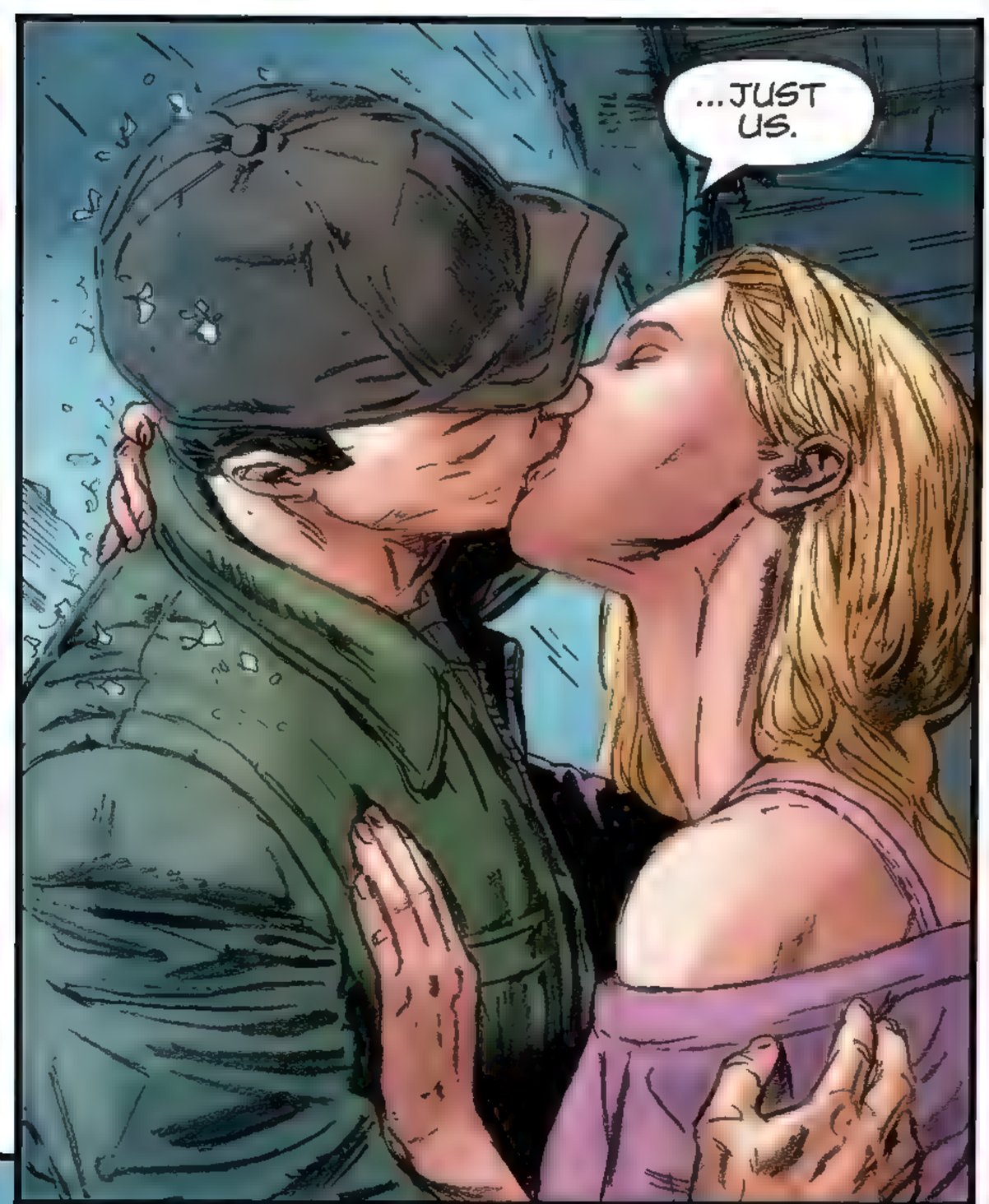

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO NEXT, OR WHERE I'LL GO.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT THERE IS ONE LAST THING I HAVE TO DO...


RAY.
IT'S-- IT'S BEEN WEEKS.

I TOLD YOU I WAS COMING BACK.
I PROMISED.
I-- I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT. WITH HER.
NO. IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO TRACK YOU DOWN. AND THERE WERE JUST A LOT OF LOOSE ENDS.
I WANTED TO BE FREE OF IT ALL... I WANTED US TO BE FREE OF IT ALL.


US?
OF COURSE, MAGIC. THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE I WANT TO BE.
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE I WANT TO BE WITH.
REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE HAPPENS, IT WOULD BE US...


...JUST US.

ACTUALLY... THAT'S NOT EXACTLY TRUE, RAY.
ARF!

YEAH, CAN'T SEEM TO GET RID OF THE MUTT.
I LIKE HIM. HE'S CUTE.

I USED TO THINK BLOODSHOT WAS DEATH AND CHAOS AND PAIN.

BUT NOW? NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL TO THINK.

FOR THE FIRST TIME I FEEL LIKE BLOODSHOT CAN BE ANYTHING. BLOODSHOT CAN BE ANYONE.

ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS WHATEVER I CHOOSE TO DO NEXT... I WON'T BE ALONE.

THE END

0

BLOOD SHOT REBORN

VALIANT

JEFF LEMIRE
RENATO GUEDES
ANDREW DALHOUSE

--IS STILL REELING IN THE WAKE OF THE ATTACKS IN NEW YORK CITY WHERE A HORRIFYING VIRUS SPREAD THROUGH THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN.

THE COUNTRY AND INDEED, THE ENTIRE WORLD, IS STILL TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED, AND EVEN MORE TERRIFYING, IF IT CAN AND WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.

THE FBI CONTINUED ITS AGGRESSIVE RAIDS ON LOCATIONS AND UNDERGROUND CELLS OF THIS MYSTERIOUS WEAPONS MANUFACTURER.

NEW DETAILS SEEM TO BE EMERGING EVERY MINUTE ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE VIRUS, BUT THE NAME **PROJECT RISING SPIRIT** SEEMS TO BE THE ONE CONSTANT.

WHO AND WHAT PROJECT RISING SPIRIT IS HAS BECOME THE FOCUS OF MUCH DEBATE BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE TIES THAT REACH DEEP INTO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE FINANCIAL SECTOR.

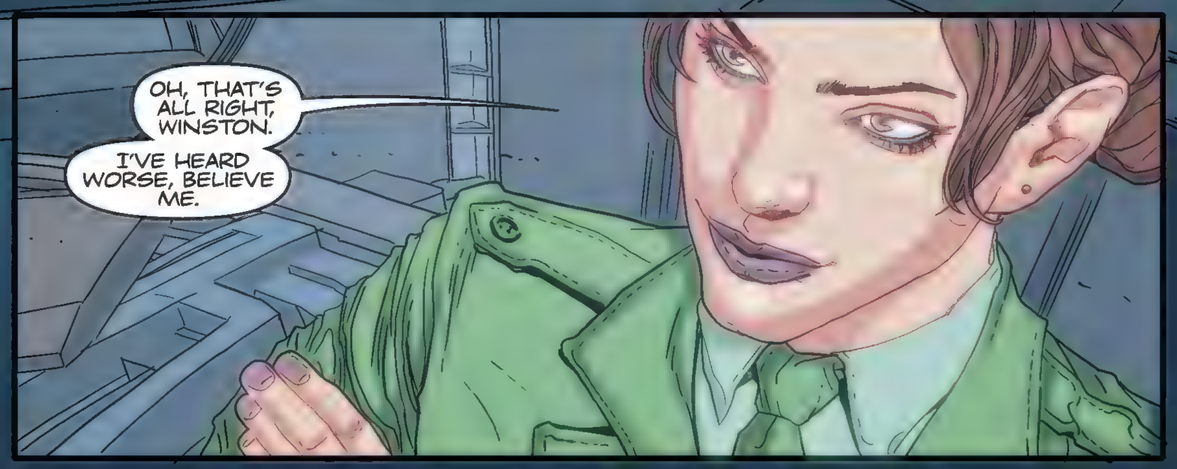
AND EVEN MORE PUZZLING IS THE IDENTITY OF THE SMALL GROUP OF MEN WHO BORE THE SAME TRADEMARK WHITE SKIN AND RED EYES AS THE INFECTED, BUT SEEMED TO HAVE WORKED **WITH** G.A.T.E. TO STOP THE ATTACKS.

WHO WERE THESE MEN? HOW WERE THEY CONNECTED TO PROJECT RISING SPIRIT AND THE VIRUS, AND WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

G. A.T.E. HEADQUARTERS.
THE BLOODSHOT SQUAD...
OR AT LEAST WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.

WHERE ARE WE? WHERE *ELSE?* HOOKED UP TO SOME @#$% MACHINES IN SOME #%&# LAB. DIFFERENT DAY, SAME OLD #&$#.

WOULD YOU WATCH YOUR MOUTH, VIETMAN?!

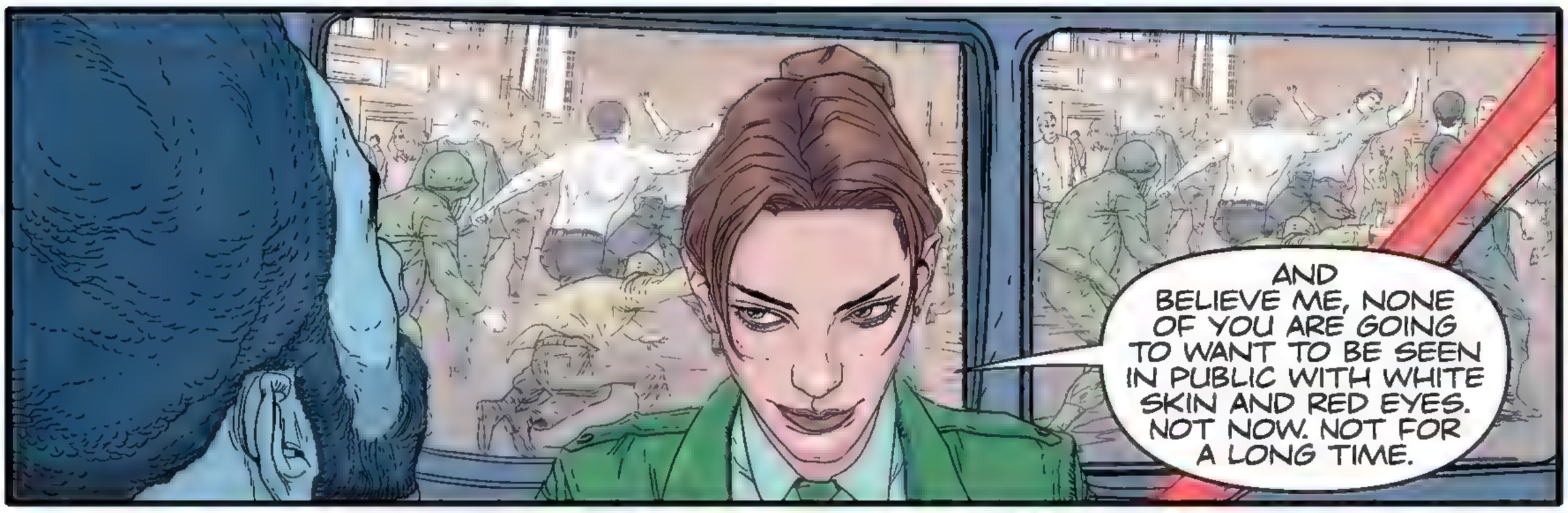


I'M WORKING ON IT. WE'RE STILL POURING OVER EVERYTHING WE ARE BRINGING IN FROM THE PROJECT RISING SPIRIT RAIDS.

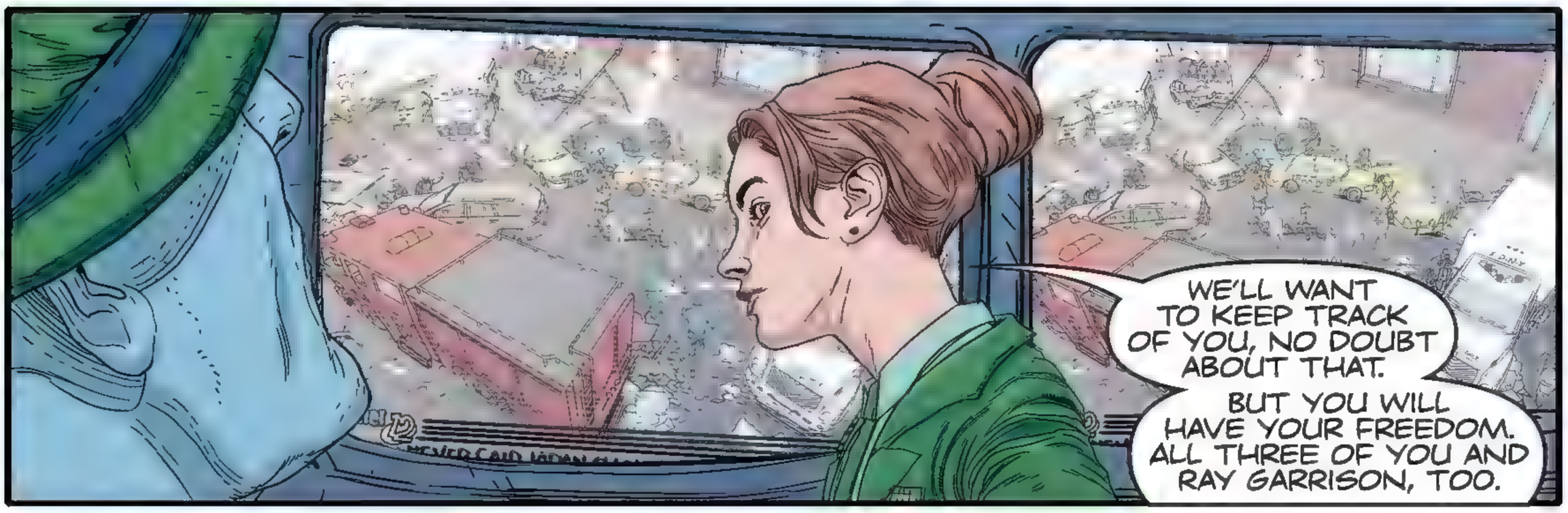
IF YOUR FILES STILL EXIST, WE'LL FIND THEM.

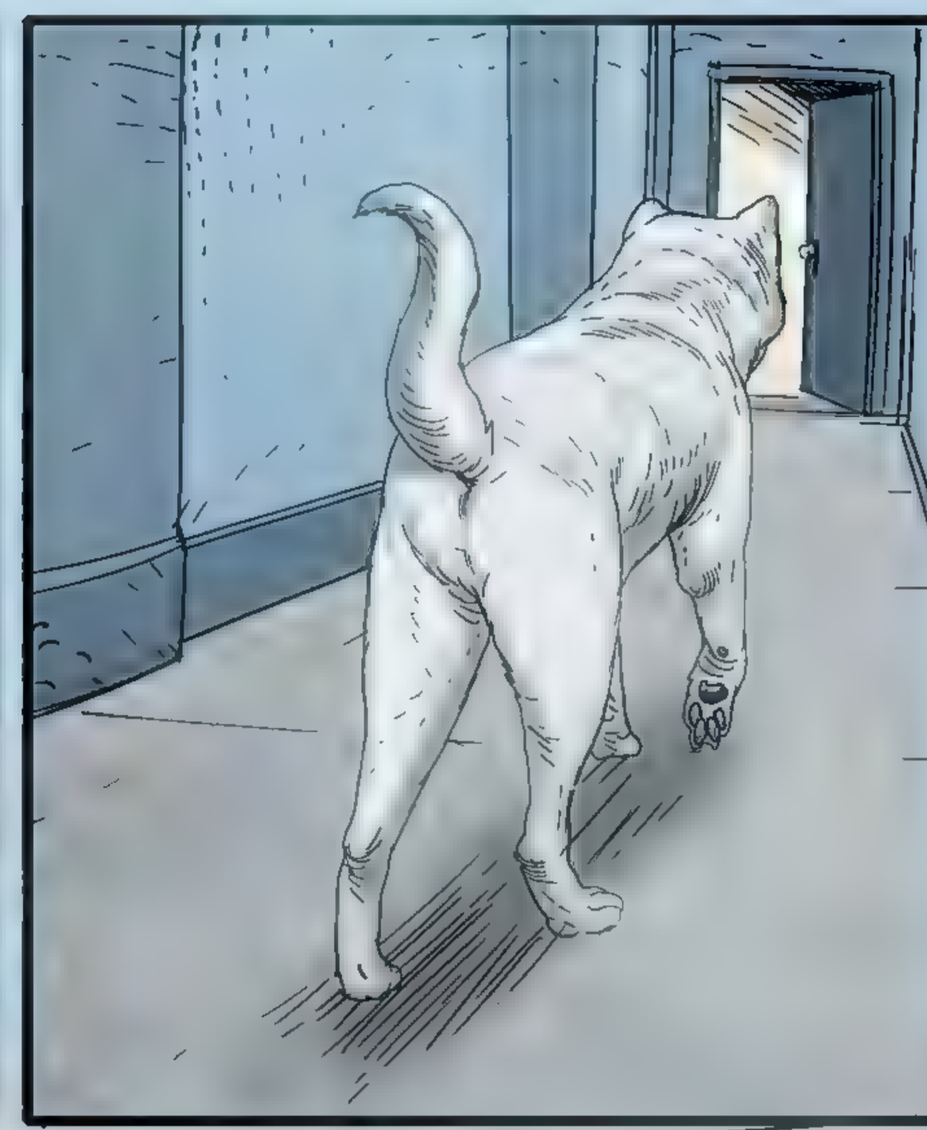
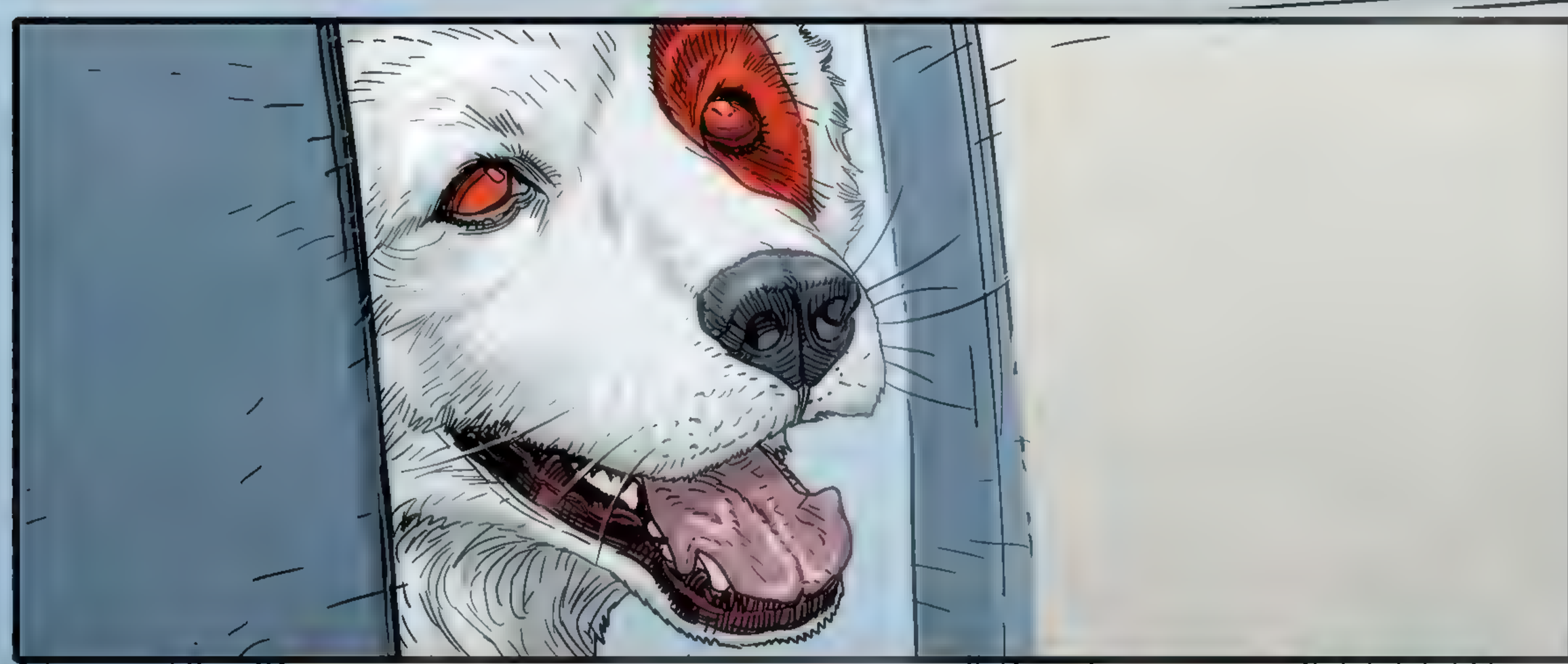
YOU'RE DREAMING, MAN. THIS IS WHAT WE ARE NOW.
THERE AIN'T NEVER ANY GOING BACK TO NORMAL.

THESE UPGRADES TO YOUR NANITES WILL GIVE THE THREE OF YOU THE ABILITY TO CHANGE YOUR APPEARANCE, JUST LIKE RAY GARRISON CAN.
IT'S A START, AT LEAST.


AND BELIEVE ME, NONE OF YOU ARE GOING TO WANT TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC WITH WHITE SKIN AND RED EYES. NOT NOW. NOT FOR A LONG TIME.

AND WE'RE REALLY SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT YOU GUYS IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE JUST GOING TO DISCHARGE US?
YES, I TOO FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE YOU WILL LET US GO FREE AFTER ALL OF THIS TIME? AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN AND DONE?


WE'LL WANT TO KEEP TRACK OF YOU, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.
BUT YOU WILL HAVE YOUR FREEDOM. ALL THREE OF YOU AND RAY GARRISON, TOO.

OH.
HEY, YOU.

WHIMPER?

COME 'ERE, BOY.

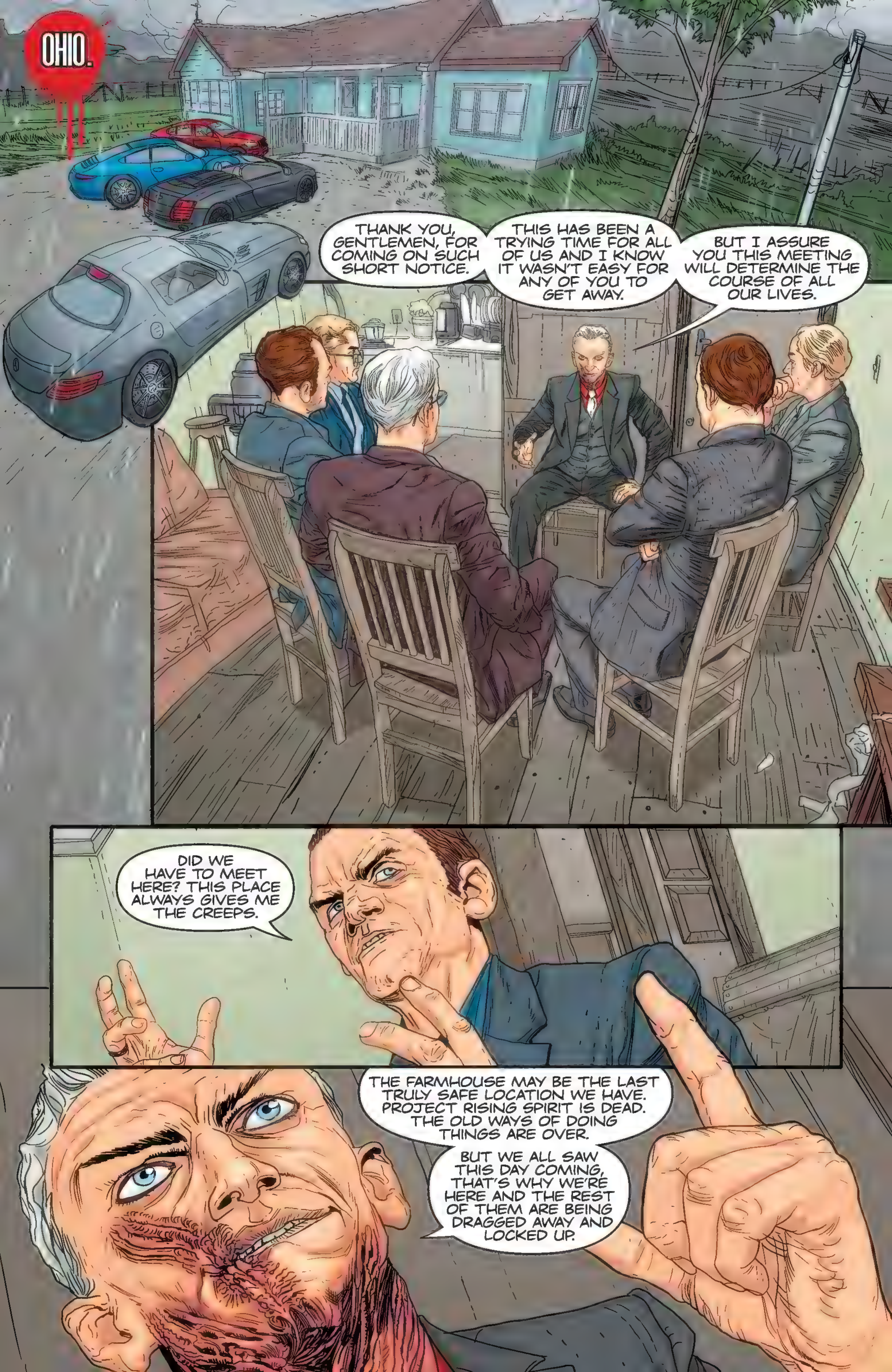
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, AREN'T YOU?

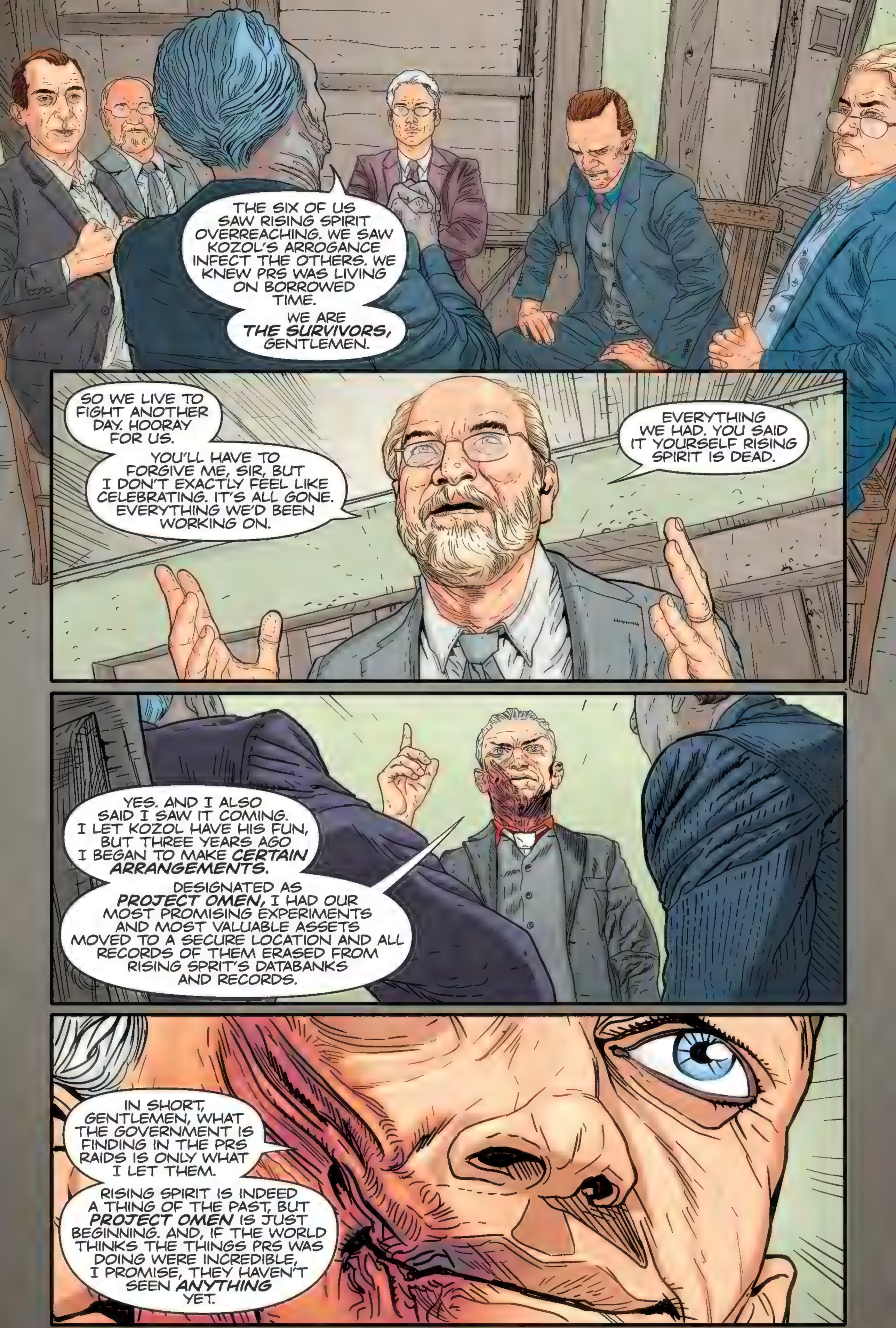
THERE YOU ARE. I KNEW HOUND WOULD FIND YOU.
THAT DOG HAS THE BEST NOSE IN THE BUSINESS.
HEY, RAY.

WHAT'S GOING ON, MAGIC? WHAT'S WRONG?

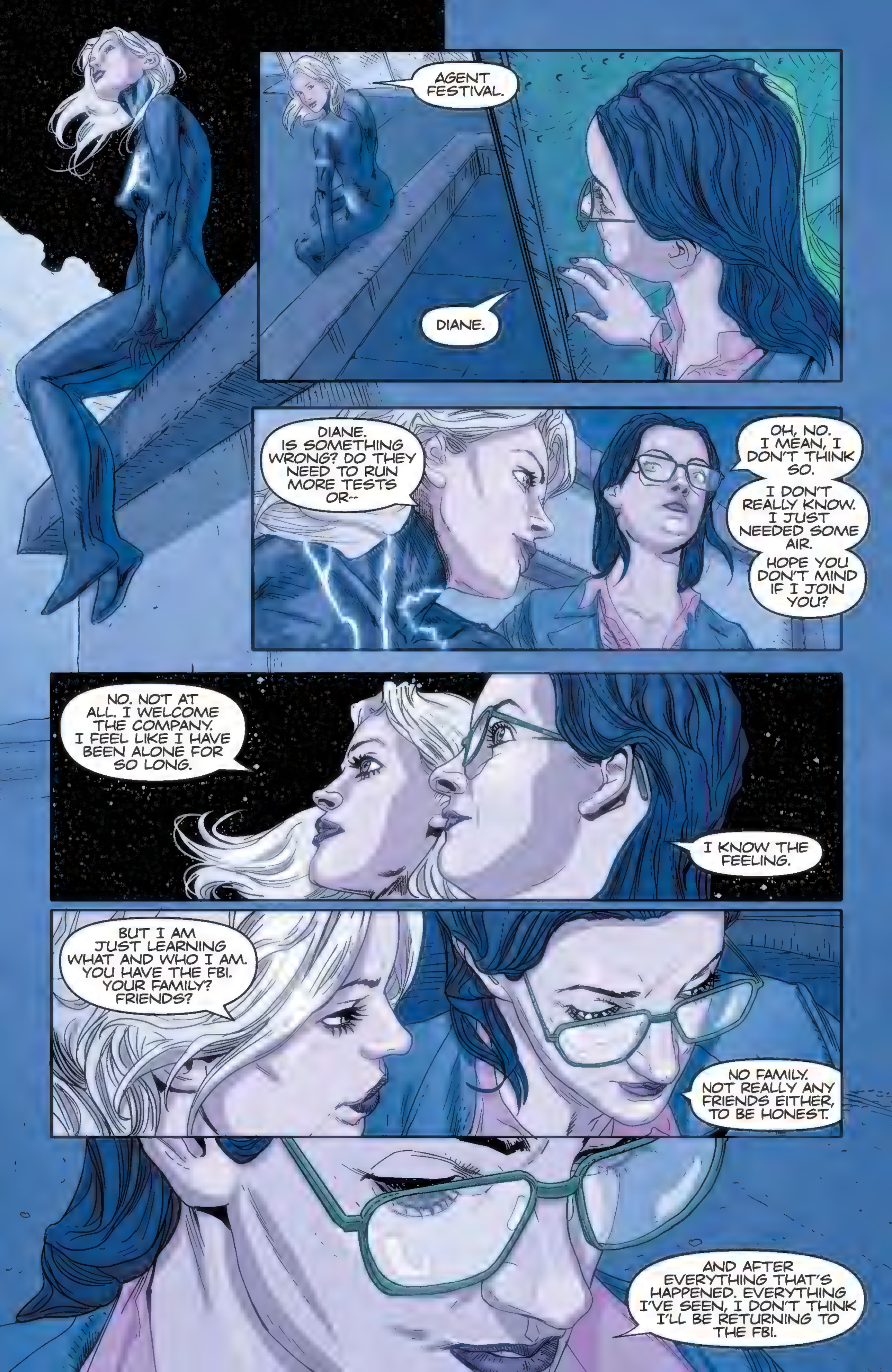
NOTHING.
RIGHT. LOOK, IF THIS IS ABOUT KAY--
--I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS, MAGIC.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OTHER WAYS I CAN TELL YOU.
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
I KNOW YOU SAY THAT, BUT...
BUT NOTHING. SHE MEANS NOTHING TO ME, MAGIC. NOT ANY MORE. AND YOU MEAN EVERYTHING.
UH HUH.
MAGIC?!
ARK!
WHAT, YOU TOO?

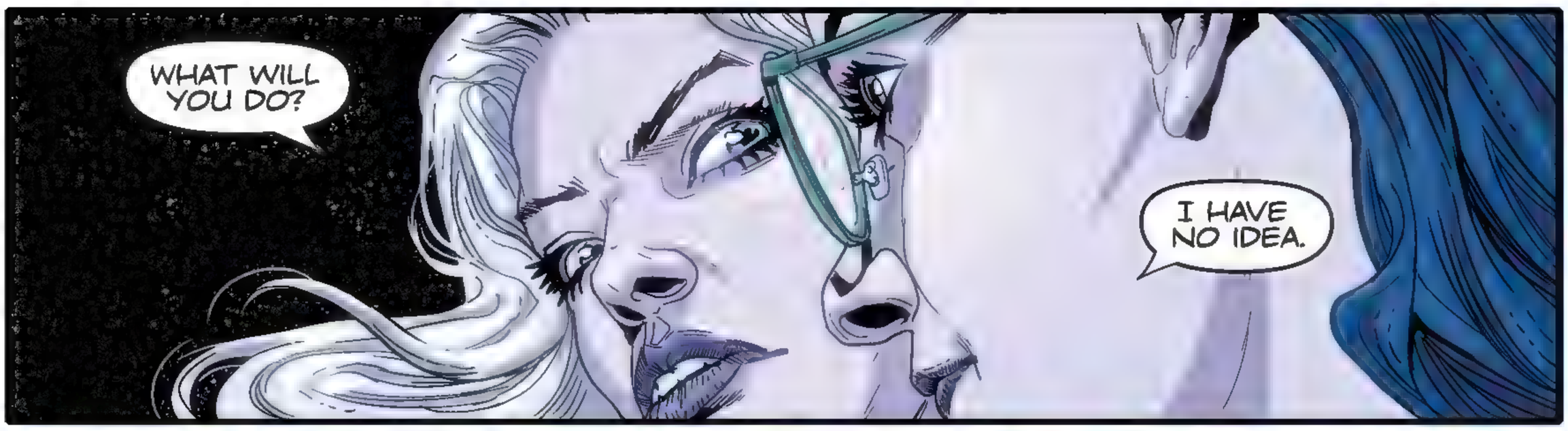
PREGNANCY TEST


OHIO.
THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN, FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
THIS HAS BEEN A TRYING TIME FOR ALL OF US AND I KNOW IT WASN'T EASY FOR ANY OF YOU TO GET AWAY.
BUT I ASSURE YOU THIS MEETING WILL DETERMINE THE COURSE OF ALL OUR LIVES.
DID WE HAVE TO MEET HERE? THIS PLACE ALWAYS GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
THE FARMHOUSE MAY BE THE LAST TRULY SAFE LOCATION WE HAVE. PROJECT RISING SPIRIT IS DEAD. THE OLD WAYS OF DOING THINGS ARE OVER.
BUT WE ALL SAW THIS DAY COMING, THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE AND THE REST OF THEM ARE BEING DRAGGED AWAY AND LOCKED UP.


THE SIX OF US SAW RISING SPIRIT OVERREACHING. WE SAW KOZOL'S ARROGANCE INFECT THE OTHERS. WE KNEW PRS WAS LIVING ON BORROWED TIME.
WE ARE THE SURVIVORS, GENTLEMEN.
SO WE LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY. HOORAY FOR US.
YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME, SIR, BUT I DON'T EXACTLY FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING. IT'S ALL GONE. EVERYTHING WE'D BEEN WORKING ON.
EVERYTHING WE HAD. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF RISING SPIRIT IS DEAD.
YES. AND I ALSO SAID I SAW IT COMING. I LET KOZOL HAVE HIS FUN, BUT THREE YEARS AGO I BEGAN TO MAKE CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS.
DESIGNATED AS PROJECT OMEN, I HAD OUR MOST PROMISING EXPERIMENTS AND MOST VALUABLE ASSETS MOVED TO A SECURE LOCATION AND ALL RECORDS OF THEM ERASED FROM RISING SPRIT'S DATABANKS AND RECORDS.
IN SHORT, GENTLEMEN, WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS FINDING IN THE PRS RAIDS IS ONLY WHAT I LET THEM.
RISING SPIRIT IS INDEED A THING OF THE PAST, BUT PROJECT OMEN IS JUST BEGINNING. AND, IF THE WORLD THINKS THE THINGS PRS WAS DOING WERE INCREDIBLE, I PROMISE, THEY HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET.

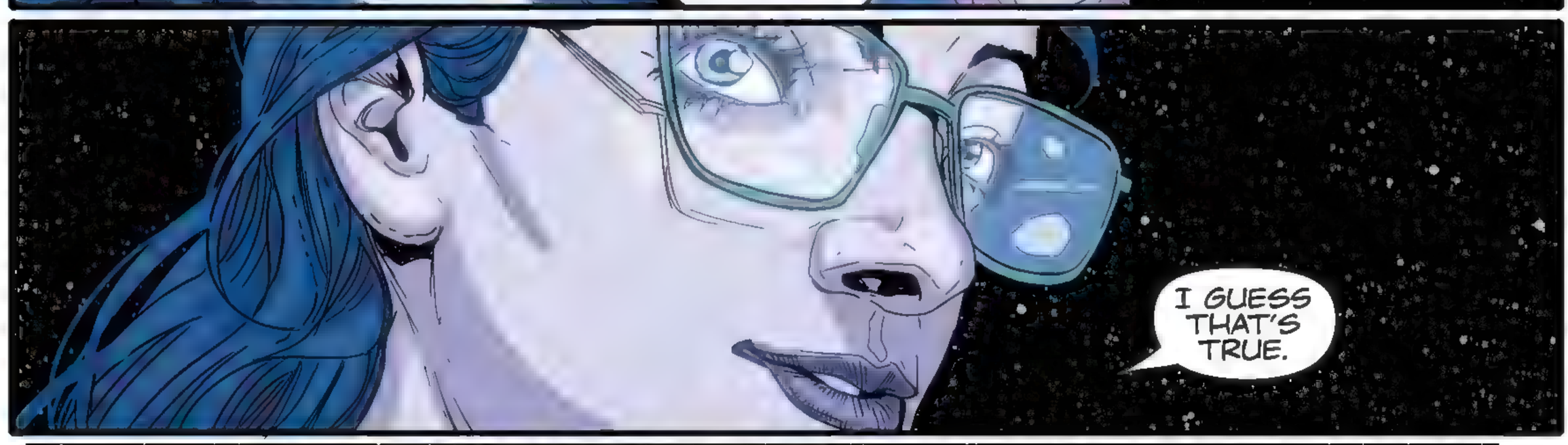
G.A.T.E. HQ.
NEVILLE, YOU'RE STILL HERE? I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HEADED BACK TO LONDON WITH THE REST OF MI6?
I DON'T INTEND TO OVERSTAY MY WELCOME, CAPSHAW.
JUST WANTED TO GET ONE LAST LOOK AT KAY McHENRY'S TEST RESULTS.
KAY McHENRY. IS THAT WHO SHE EVEN IS ANYMORE?
WHAT, YOU PREFER CODENAME DEATHMATE?
WELL, WHATEVER WE CALL HER, THIS IS CERTAIN-- SHE IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS ON THE PLANET NOW. THESE READINGS ARE OFF THE CHARTS.
SO, YOUR NEXT QUESTION IS, WHAT DO WE DO WITH HER NOW?
WE'VE MADE MANY MISTAKES RECENTLY TRYING TO CONTROL AND CONTAIN POWERFUL BEINGS. LIKE ARIC AND DIVINITY.
SO, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, WE JUST LET HER GO?
WHAT I SUGGEST, CAPSHAW, IS THAT THIS TIME WE MAY NOT HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER.


AGENT FESTIVAL.
DIANE.
DIANE. IS SOMETHING WRONG? DO THEY NEED TO RUN MORE TESTS OR--
OH, NO. I MEAN, I DON'T THINK SO.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW. I JUST NEEDED SOME AIR.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
NO. NOT AT ALL. I WELCOME THE COMPANY. I FEEL LIKE I HAVE BEEN ALONE FOR SO LONG.
I KNOW THE FEELING.
BUT I AM JUST LEARNING WHAT AND WHO I AM. YOU HAVE THE FBI. YOUR FAMILY? FRIENDS?
NO FAMILY. NOT REALLY ANY FRIENDS EITHER, TO BE HONEST.
AND AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED. EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE RETURNING TO THE FBI.


WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I HAVE NO IDEA.

YOU?
I ALSO HAVE NO IDEA.

MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING. THE SKY'S THE LIMIT, RIGHT?
BUT THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT.
THERE IS SO MUCH BEYOND IT.

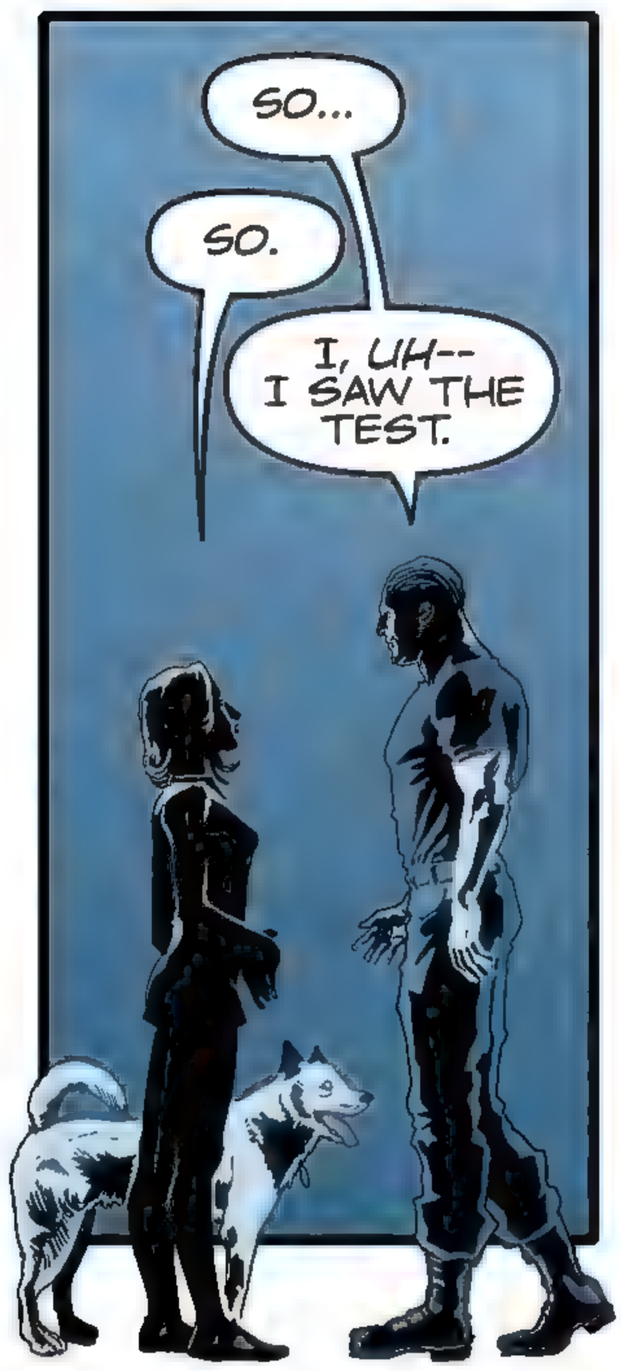

I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FLYING WITH ME?

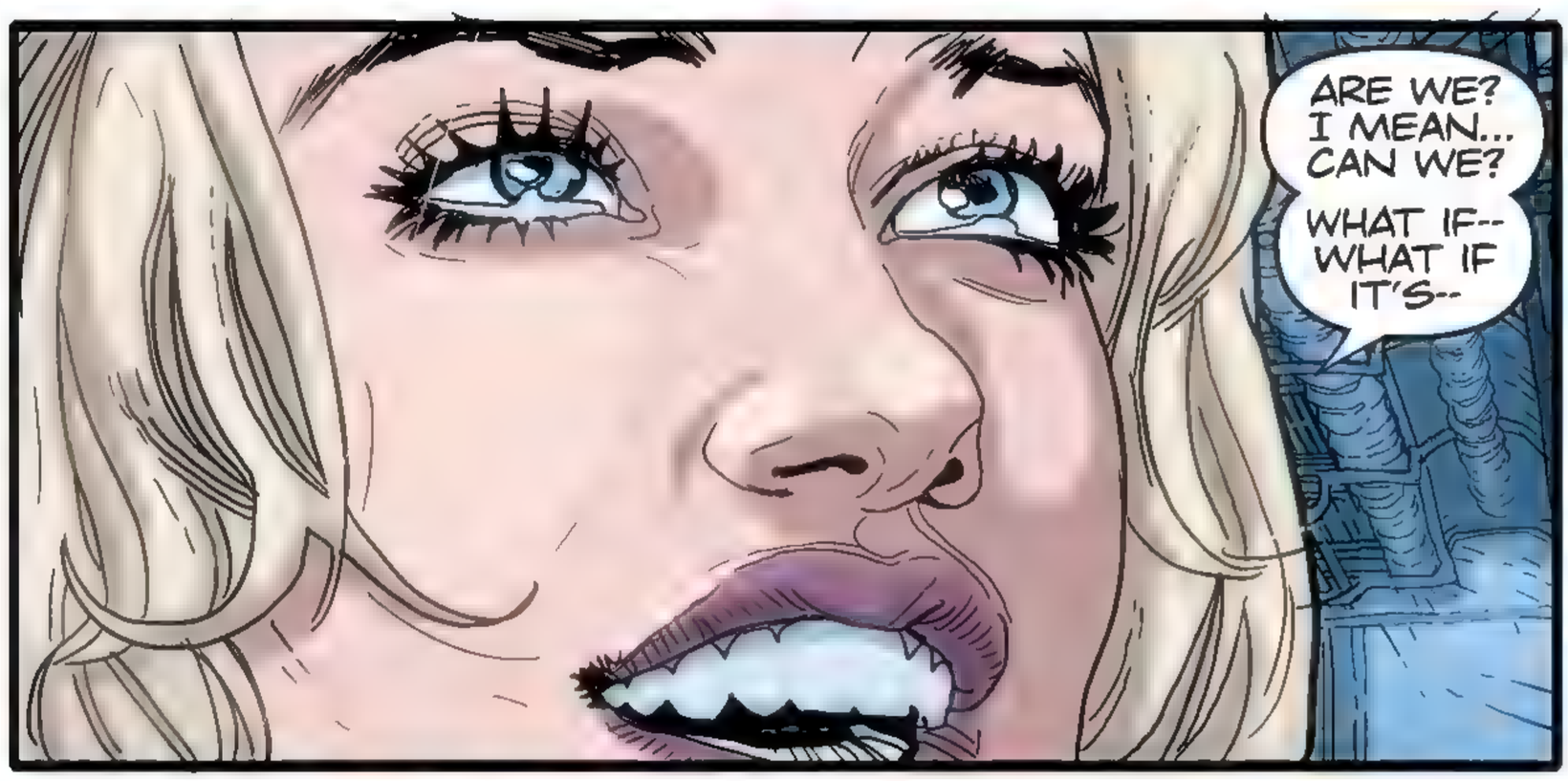
ARE--ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES. I AM.
OH, WOW.
YES. YES, I'D LIKE TO GO FLYING VERY MUCH.
EXCELLENT. I WOULD AS WELL.
THIS IS TOO COOL.
WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?
I DON'T KNOW. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

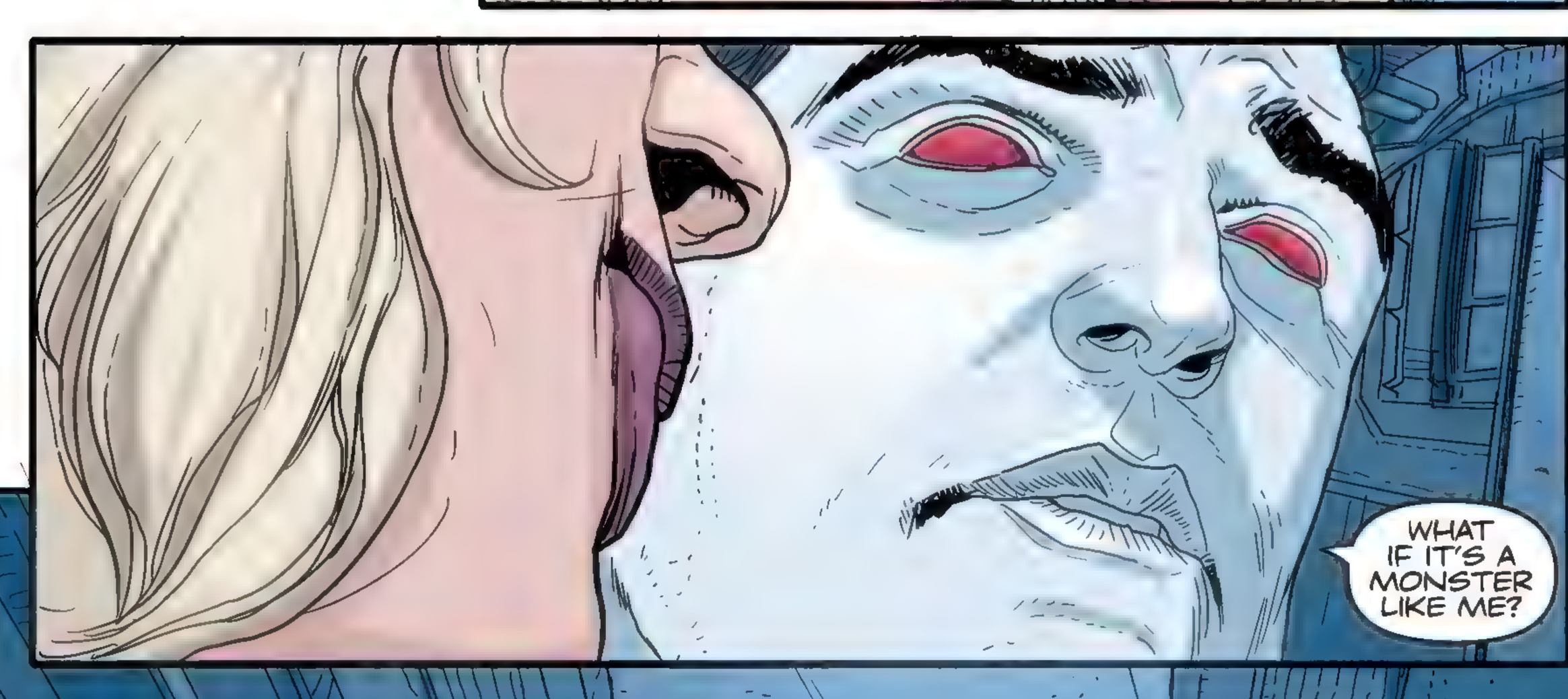
ANYWHERE. EVERYWHERE.
AWAY FROM HERE THEN?
AWAY FROM HERE.

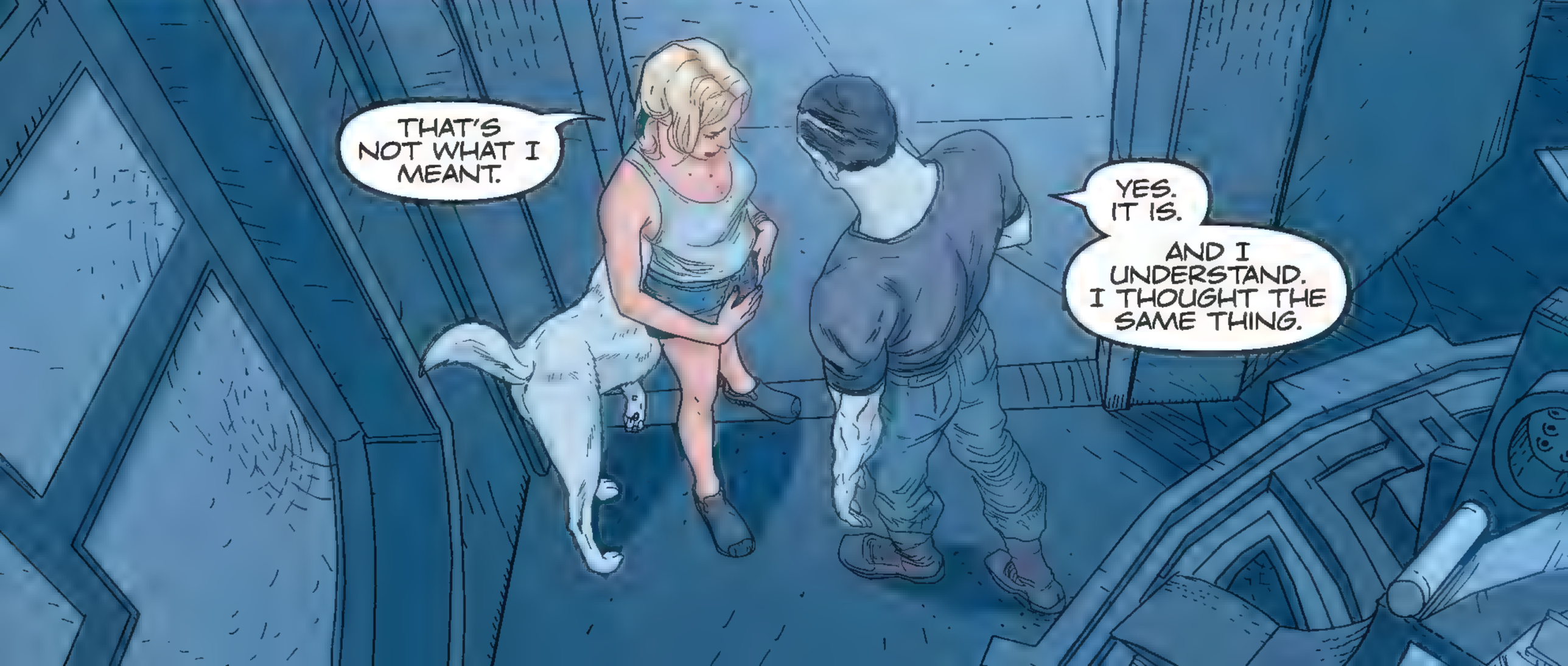
HEY, HOUND. WHAT'CHA LOOKING AT, BOY?
OH. THE CREW. THEY'RE--
THEY GOT WHAT THEY WANTED, HUH?
GOOD FOR THEM.
THEY LOOK HAPPY.
YEAH, IT'S NICE.


SO...
SO.
I, UH-- I SAW THE TEST.

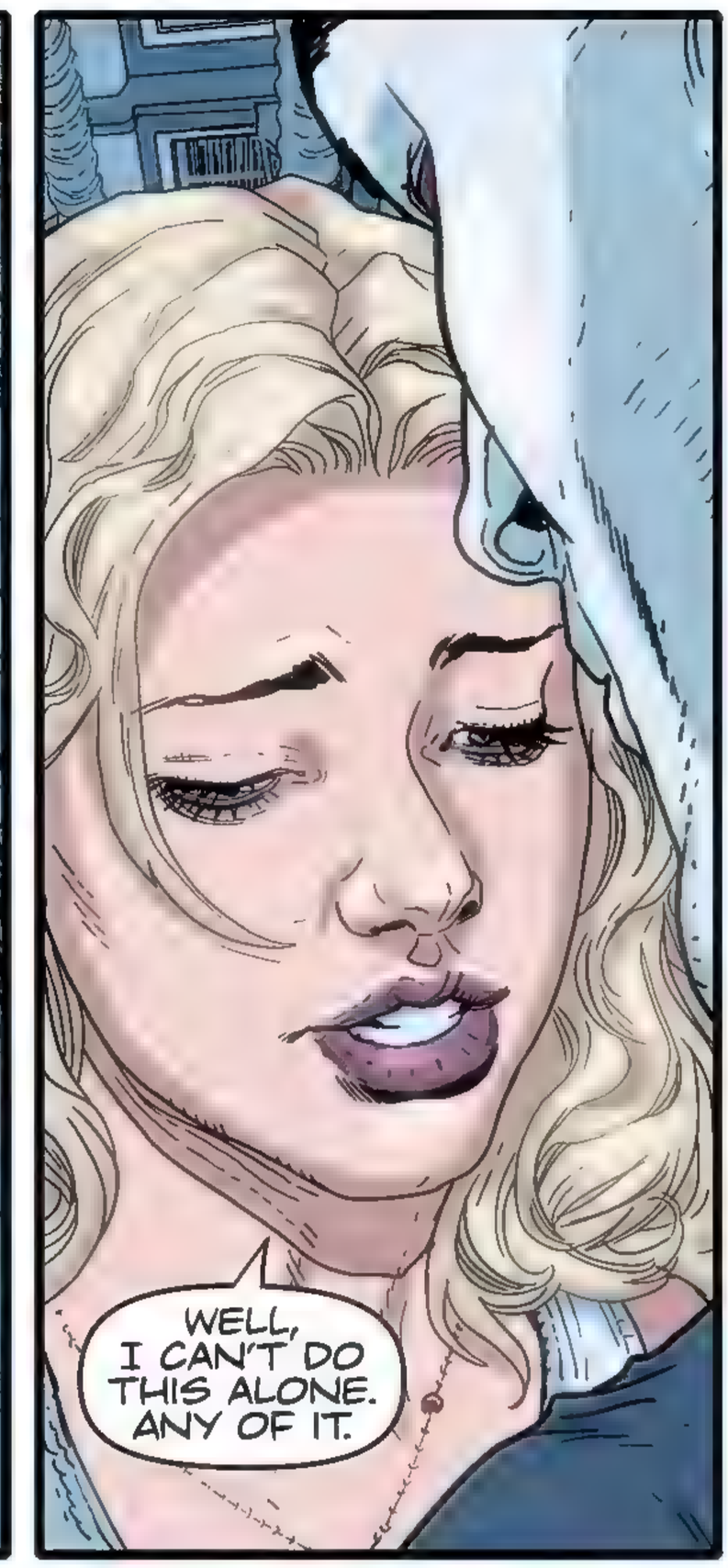
AND?
AND... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BABY.

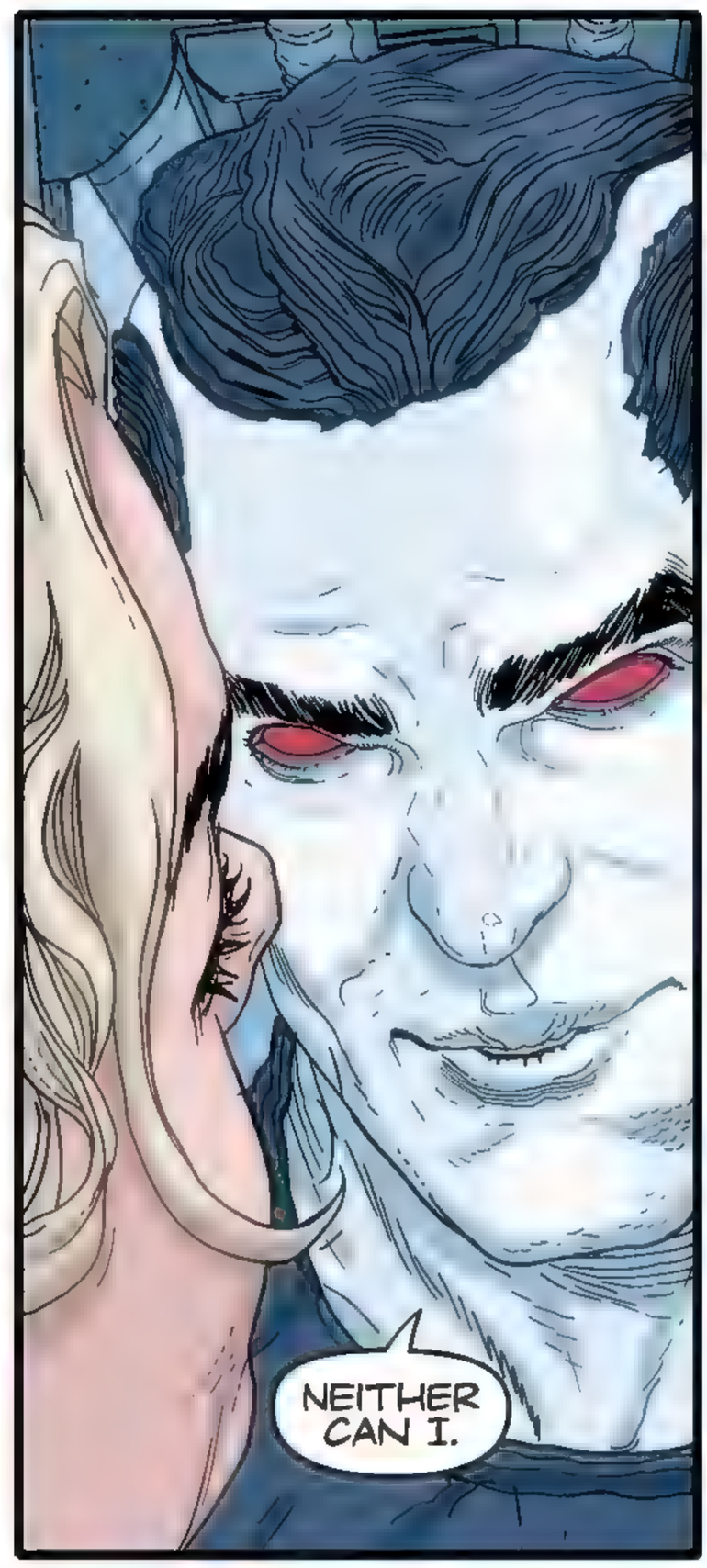

ARE WE? I MEAN... CAN WE?
WHAT IF-- WHAT IF IT'S--


WHAT IF IT'S A MONSTER LIKE ME?


THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YES. IT IS.
AND I UNDERSTAND. I THOUGHT THE SAME THING.

SO. WHAT DO WE DO?
HELL, I AIN'T EVER MADE ANYTHING BUT BAD DECISIONS, MAGIC.
I DON'T WANT TO SCREW THIS UP, TOO.
I DON'T WANT TO SCREW US UP.


WELL, I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE. ANY OF IT.


NEITHER CAN I.

SO?
SO, IF IT'S GONNA BE A MONSTER, AT LEAST IT'LL BE OUR MONSTER.
BLOODHOUND IS GOING TO BE JEALOUS THOUGH. HE BARELY LIKES TO SHARE YOU WITH ME.
ARK!
HE HEARD THAT.
I KNOW. MUTT HEARS EVERYTHING.

SO WHAT NEXT? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
IS OUR STORY OVER? OR IS IT JUST STARTING?
IS ALL THE BAD STUFF FINALLY BEHIND US?
ARE ALL THE NIGHTMARES GONE FOREVER OR ARE THEY JUST WAITING TO CATCH UP TO US AGAIN?
WHEN WILL WE KNOW IF WE'RE REALLY FREE? REALLY SAFE?

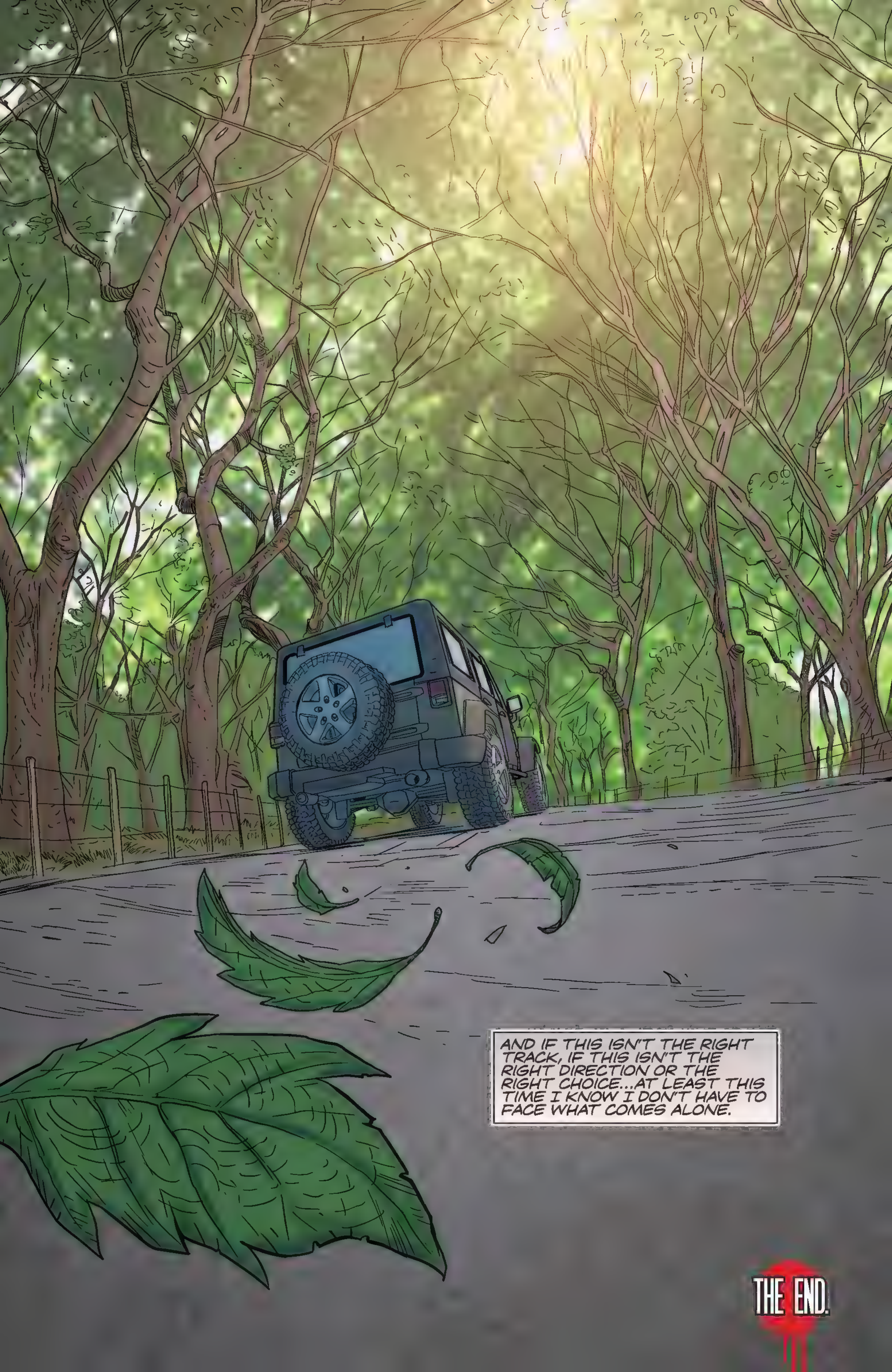
When will we know if we're really free? Really safe?

ALL I HAVE NOW ARE QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE.

BUT, FOR MOST OF MY LIFE I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A FUTURE. AT LEAST NOT ONE I WANTED ANY PART OF.

SO I GUESS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER I MUST BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.


AND IF THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TRACK, IF THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR THE RIGHT CHOICE...AT LEAST THIS TIME I KNOW I DON'T HAVE TO FACE WHAT COMES ALONE.
THE END.

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BLOODSHOT U.S.A. #1, pages 6-7
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BLOODSHOT U.S.A. #1, p. 20
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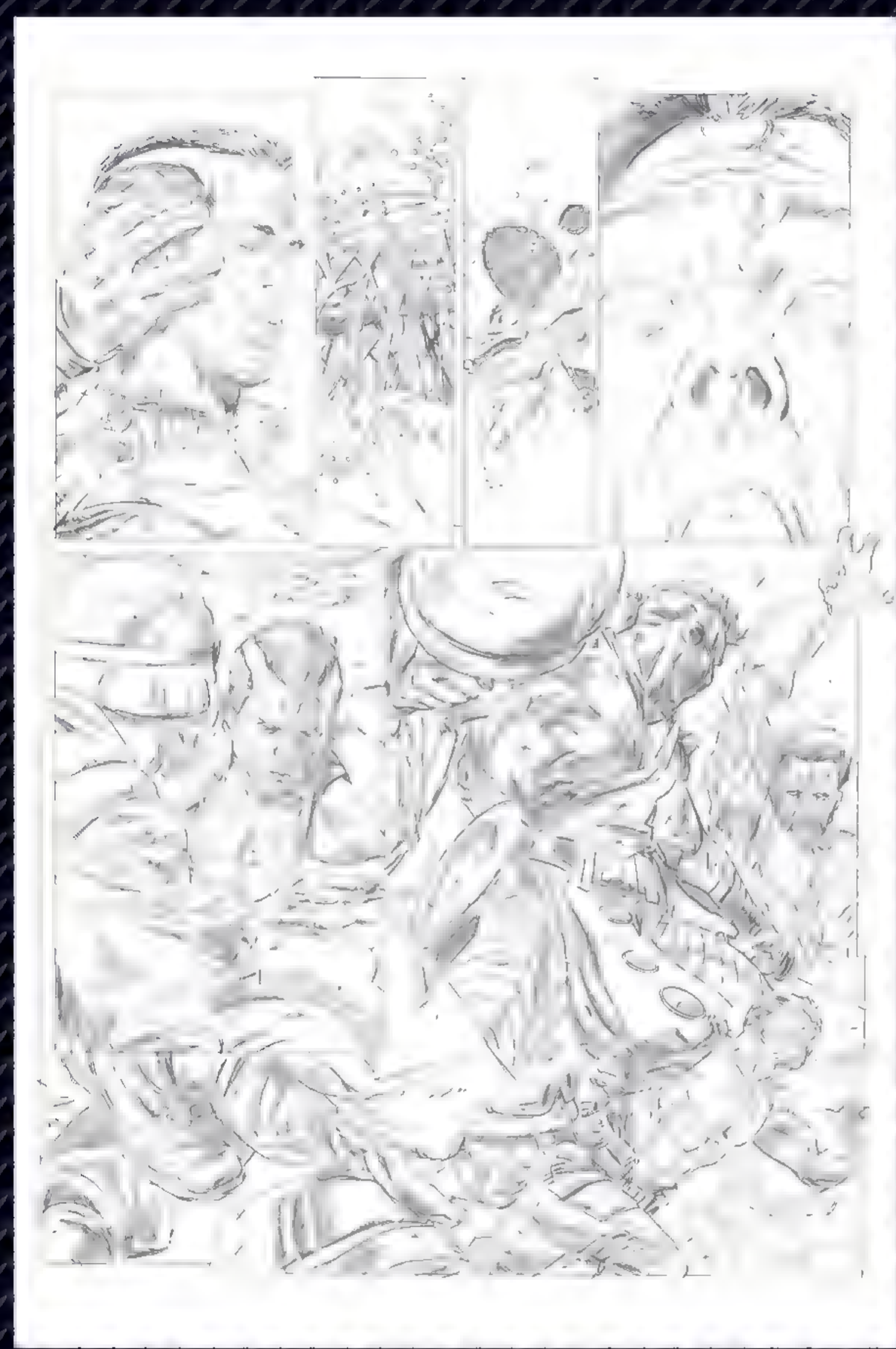

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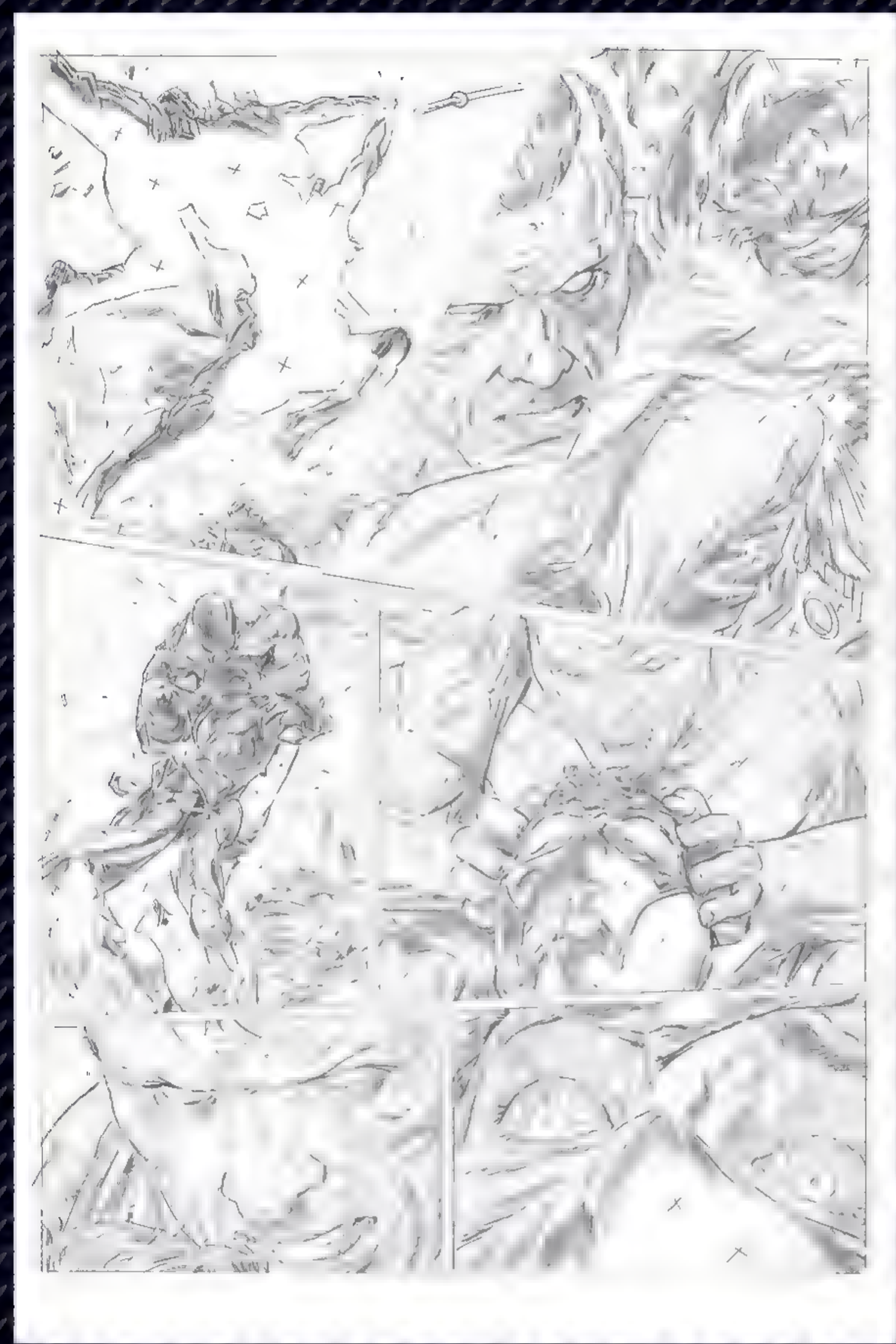

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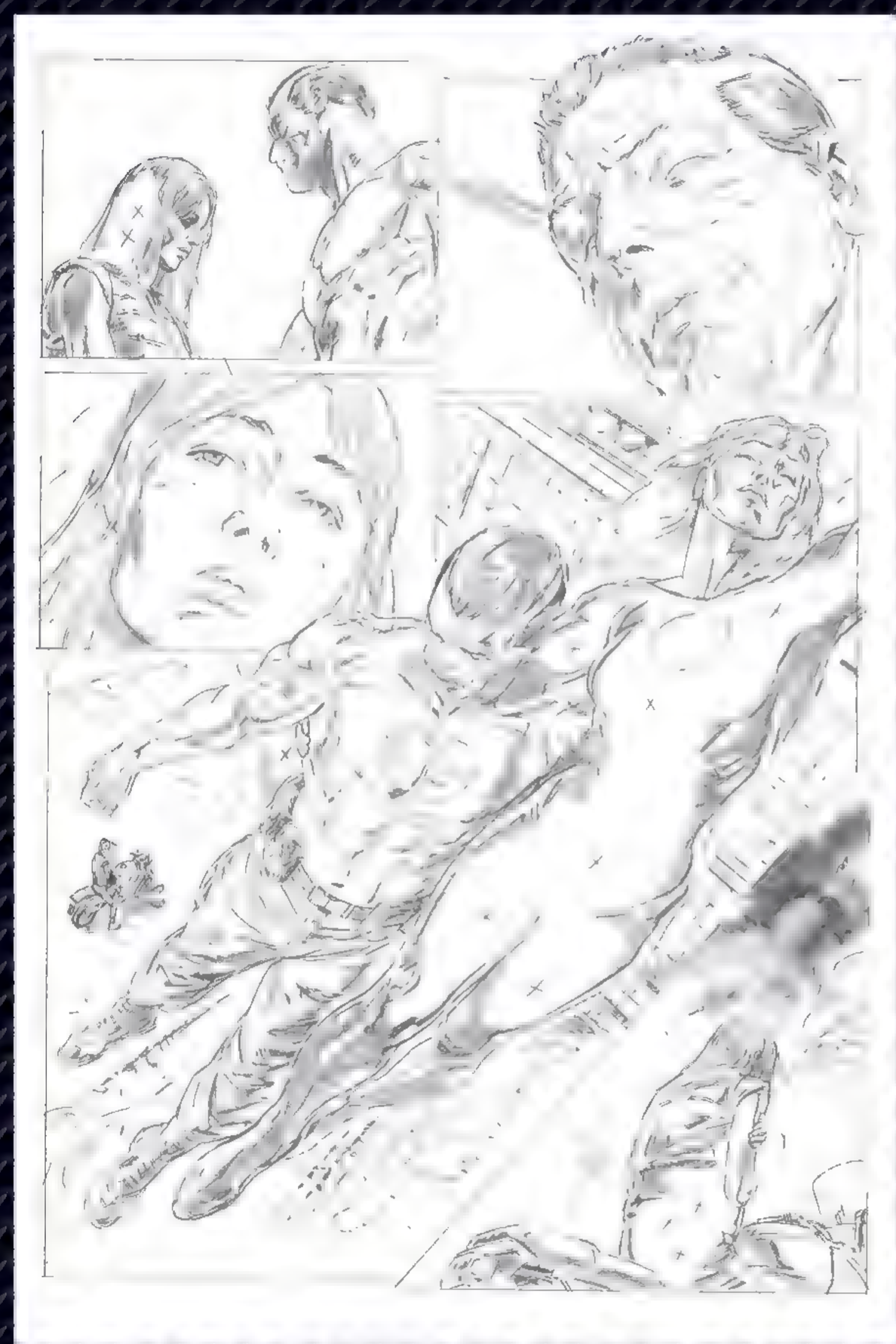

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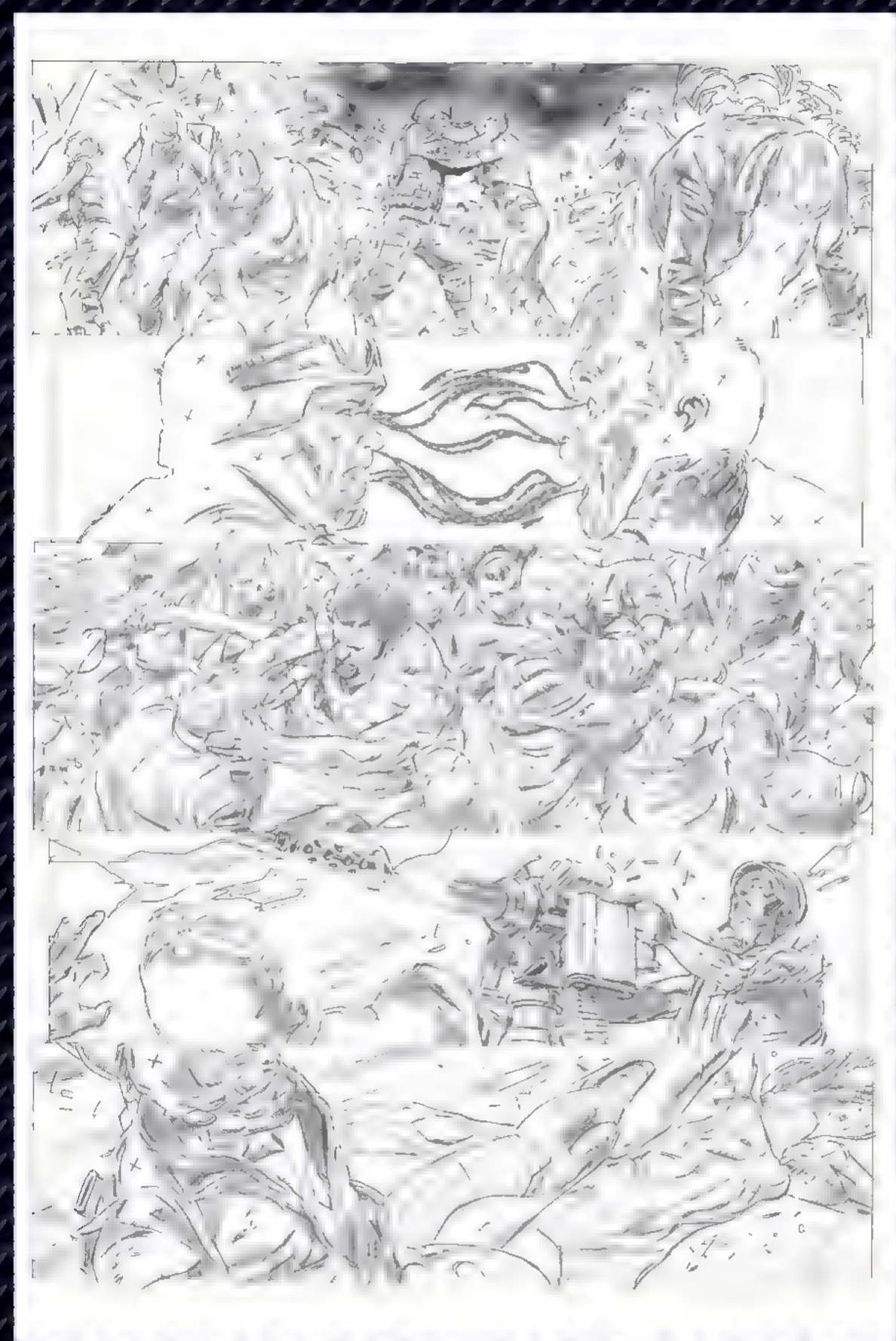

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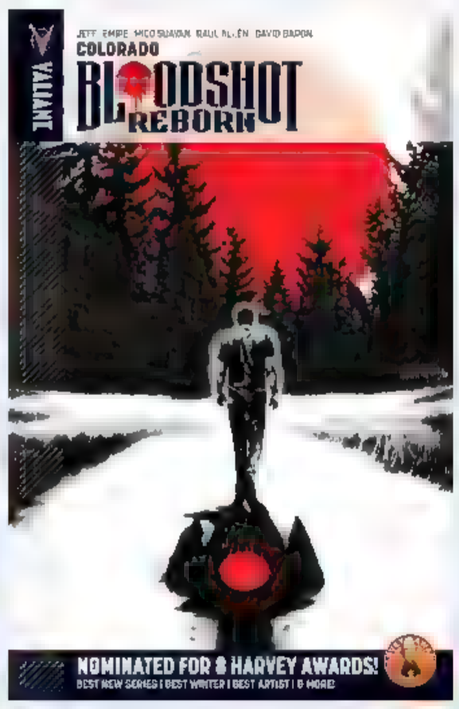

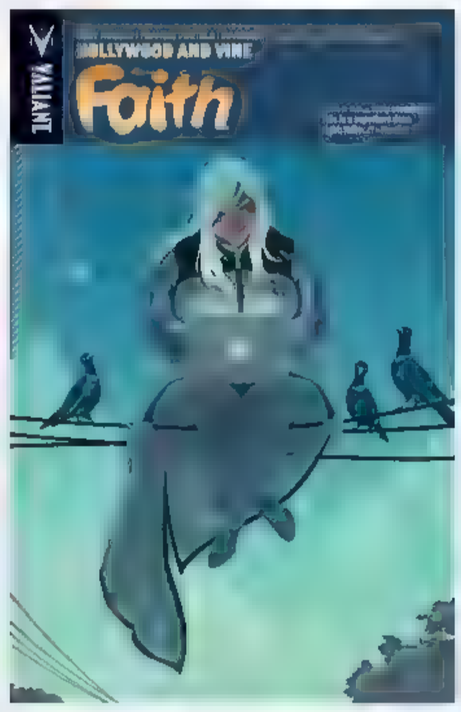

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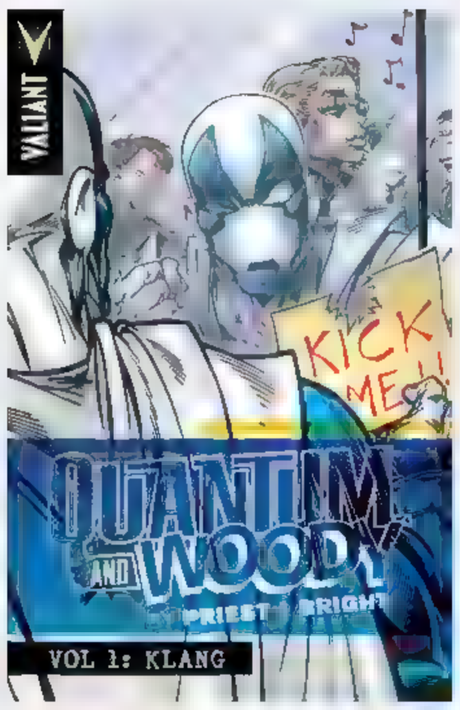

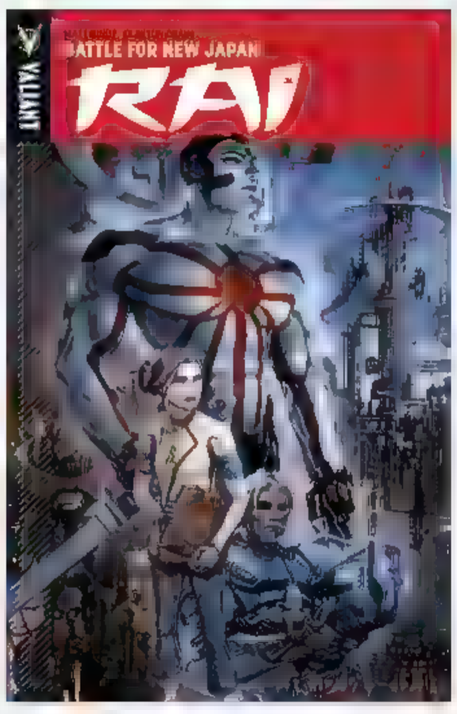

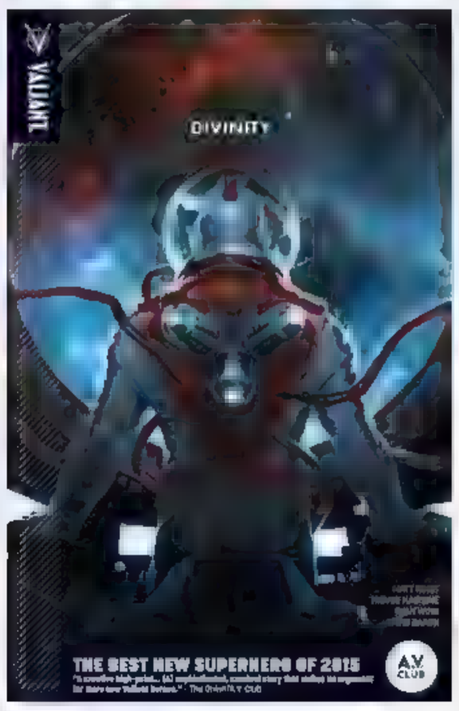

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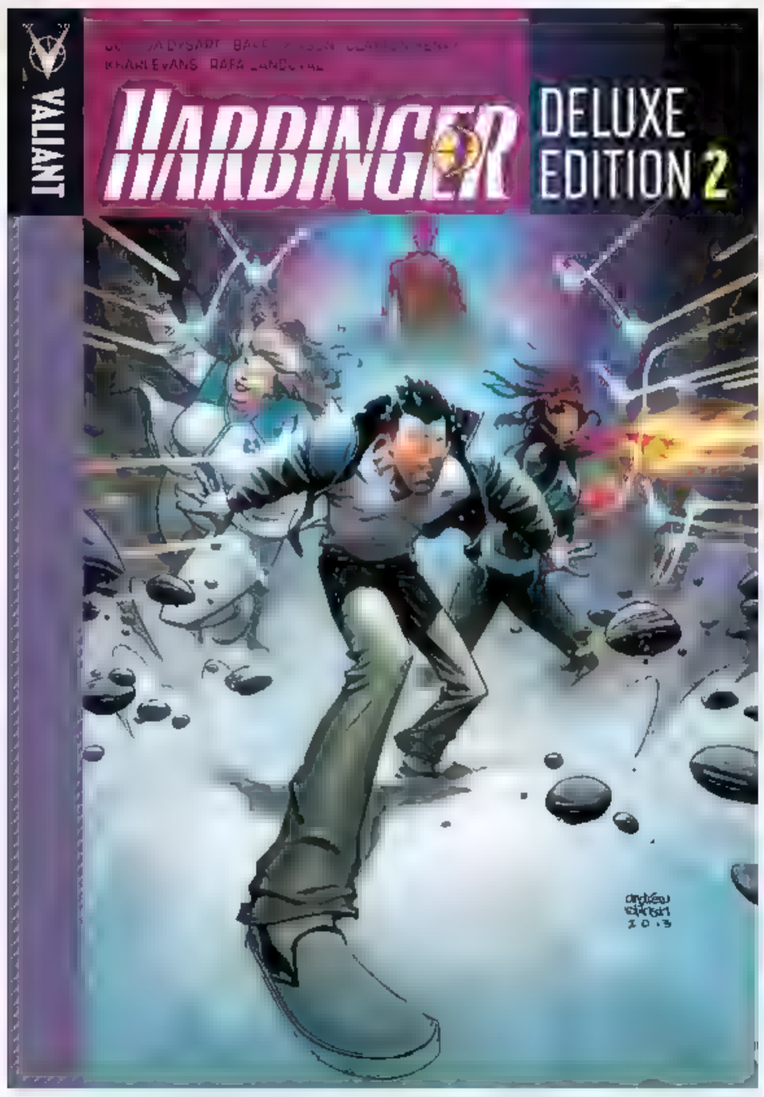

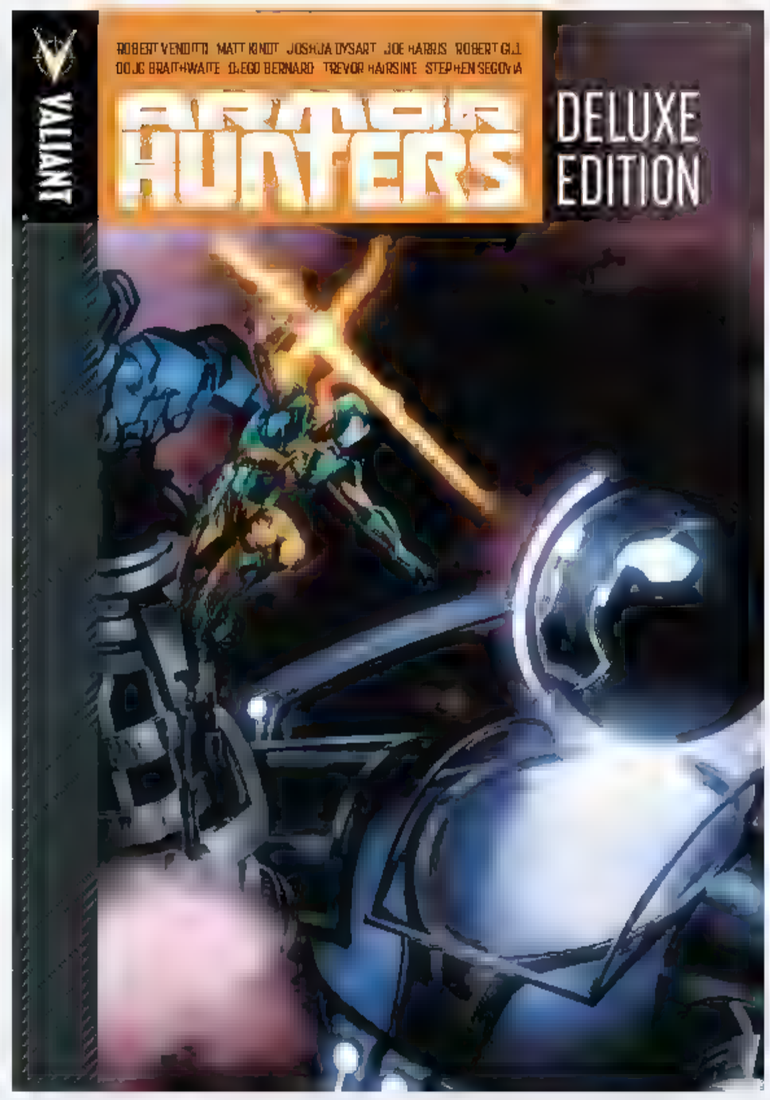

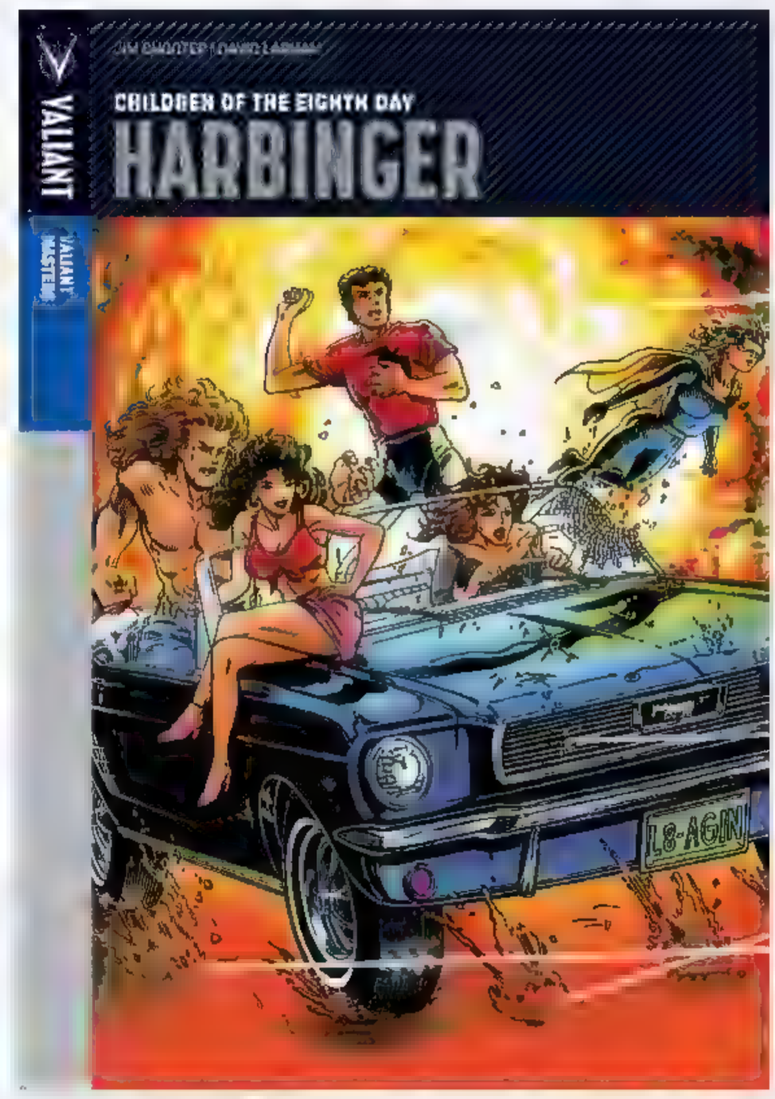

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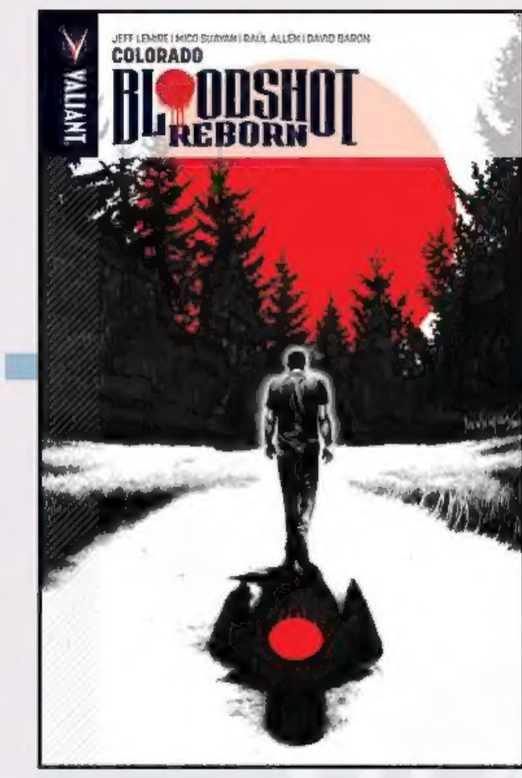

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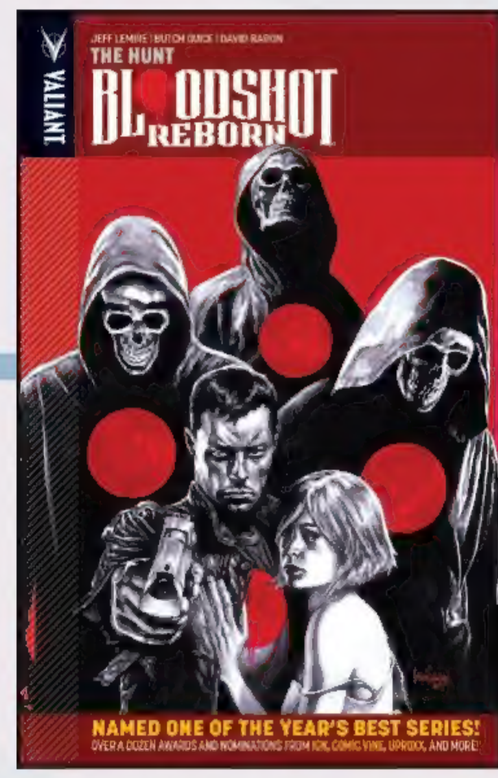

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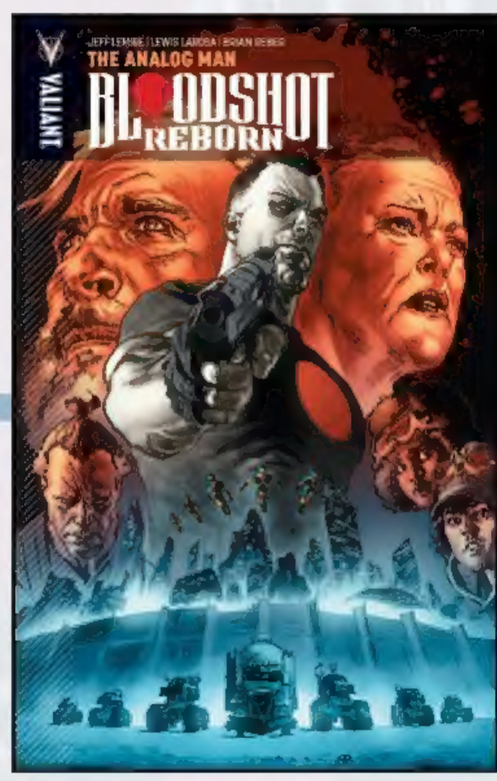

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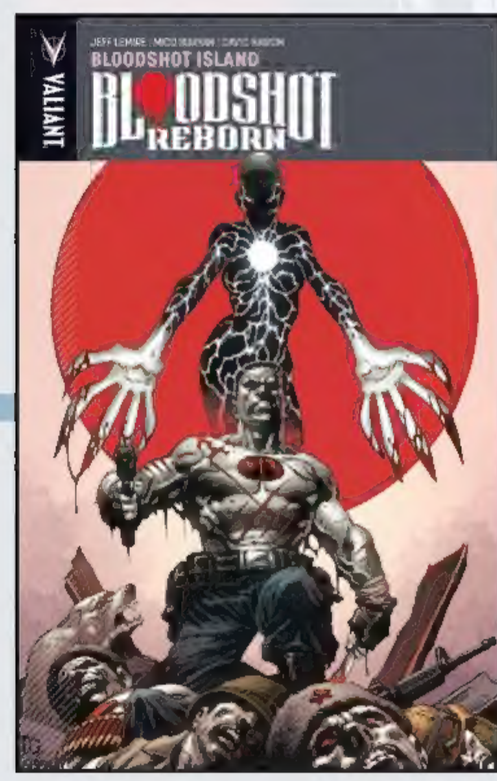

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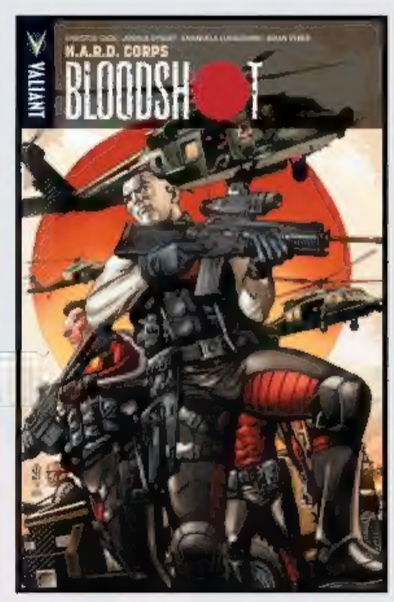

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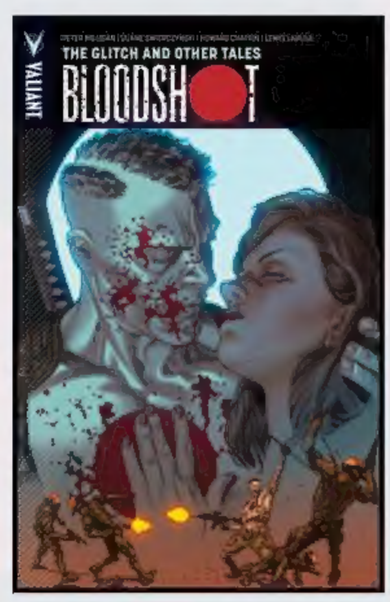

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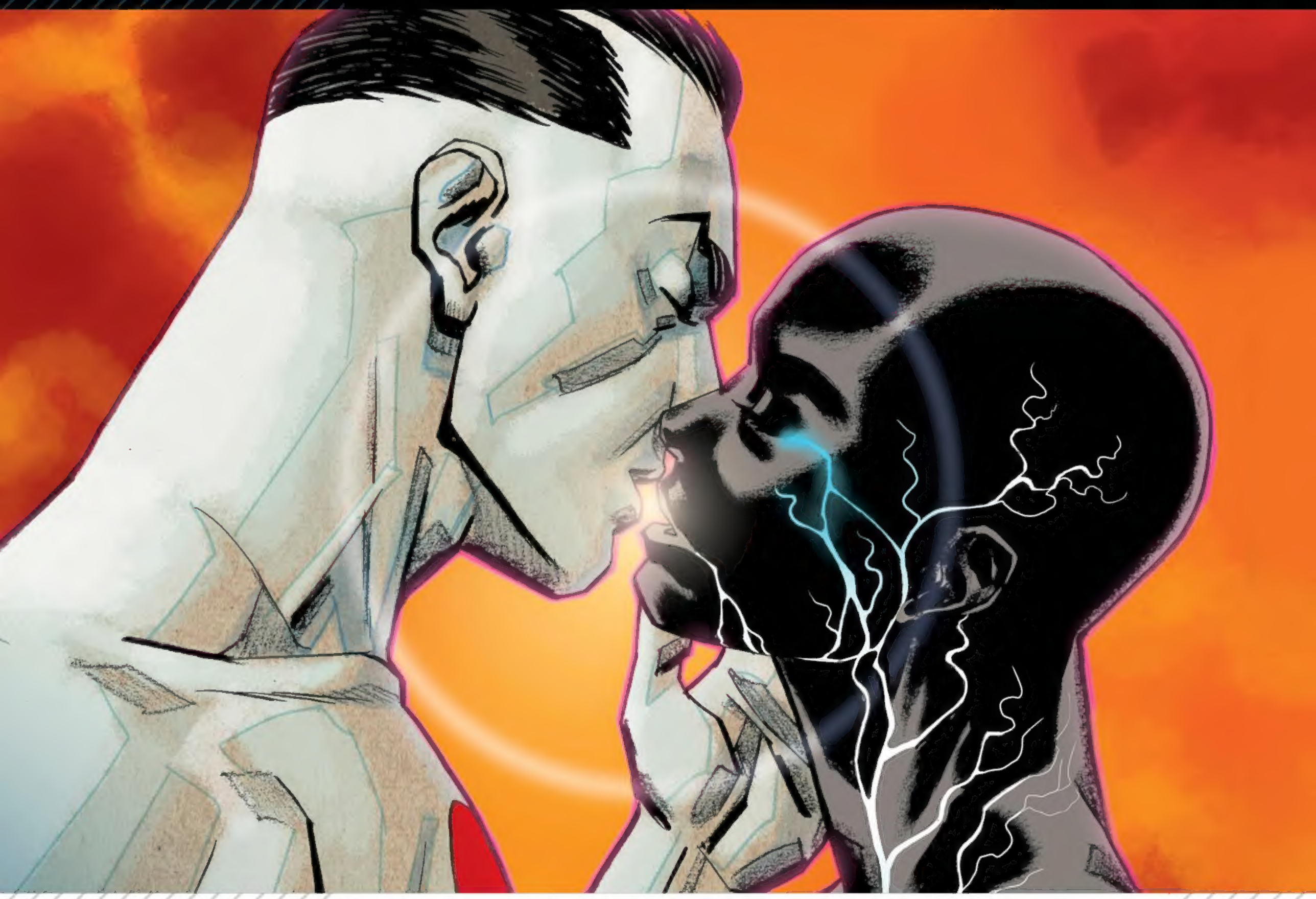

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